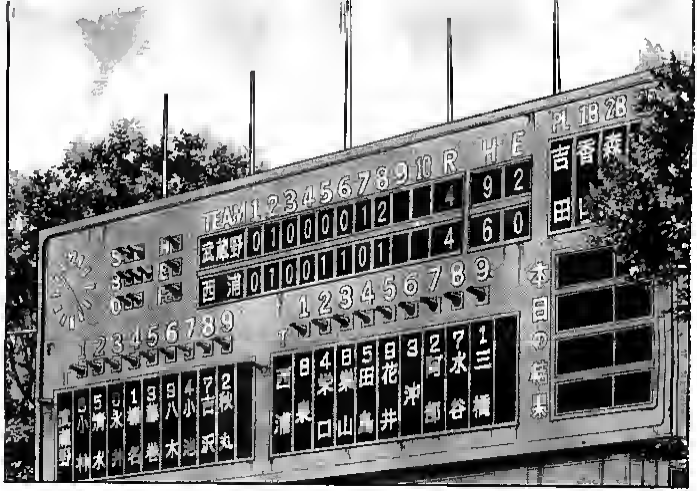
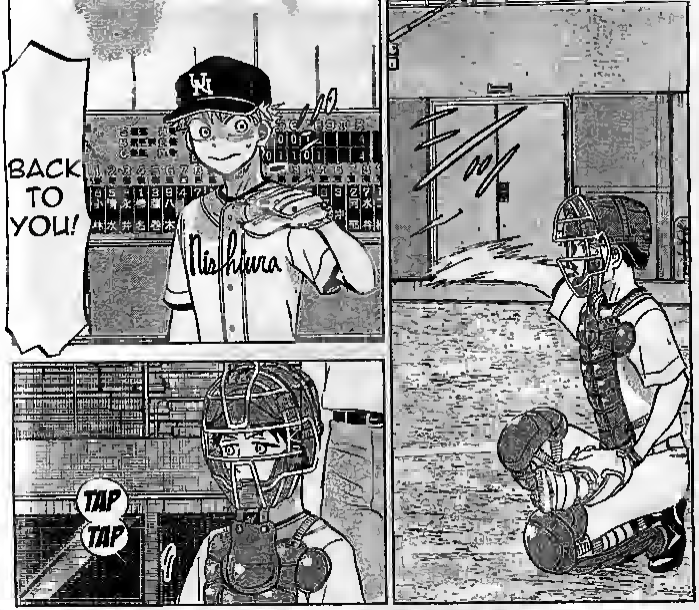

TEAM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R H E
武蔵野 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 2 4 9 2
西浦 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 4 6 0
本日の結果
西浦 8 東 4 栄口 8 巣山 5 田島 8 花井 3 沖 2 阿部 7 水谷 1 三橋
PL 18 28 吉 香 森 田

6 7 8 9 10 R H E
0 1 2 4 9 2
1 0 1 4 6 0
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3 巣 5 田 8 花 3 沖 2 阿 7 水 1 三
山 島 井 部 谷 橋

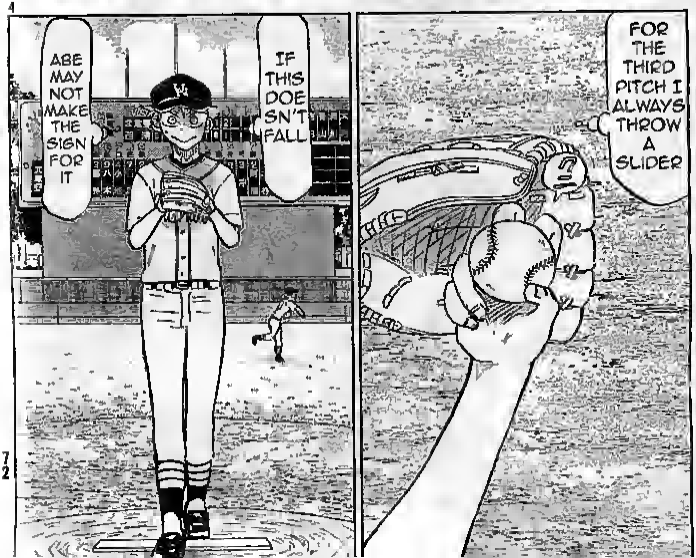
IT'S A TIE IN THE 9TH INNING
THIS IS AN IMPOR-TANT PLAY
REALLY

Nishiura

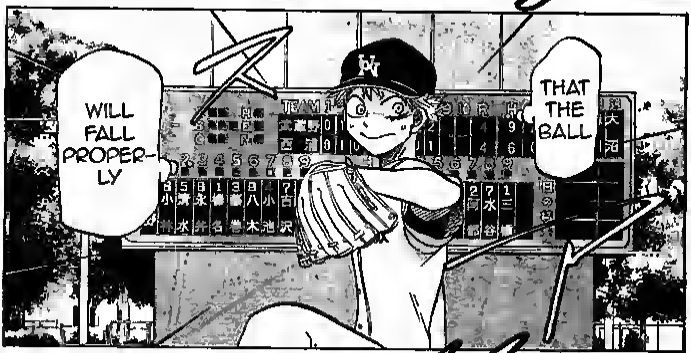
FAST-BALL
BALL 2
BALL 1, FAST-BALL


BACK TO YOU!
Nishiura
TAP
TAP

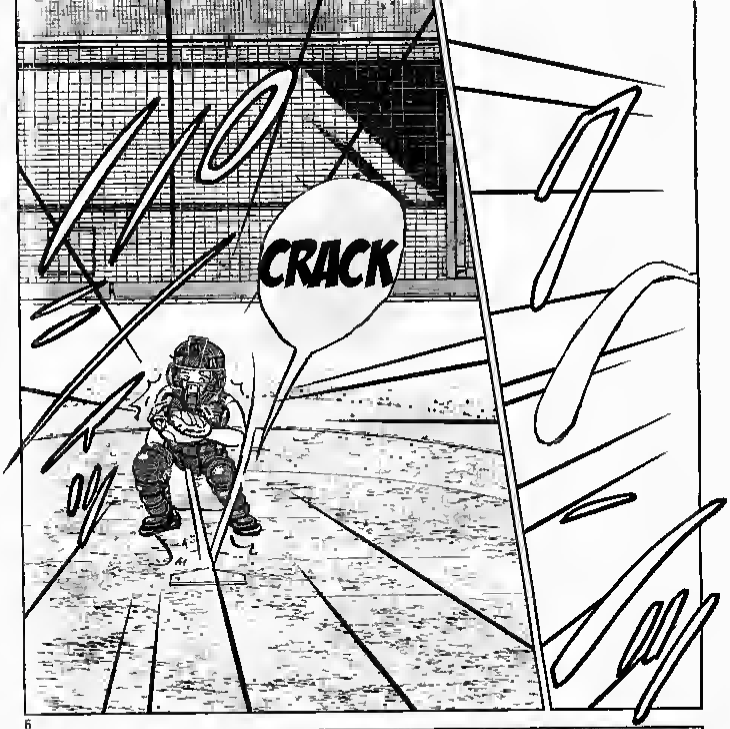
4


ABE MAY NOT MAKE THE SIGN FOR IT
IF THIS DOE SN'T FALL
FOR THE THIRD PITCH I ALWAYS THROW A SLIDER

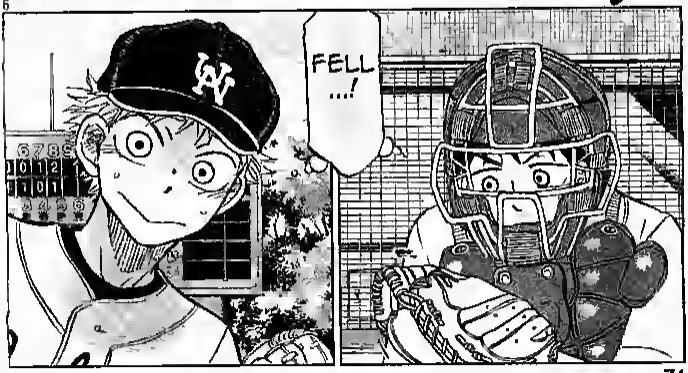
I DON'T HAVE CONFI-DENCE


WILL FALL PROPER-LY
THAT THE BALL

Nishimura

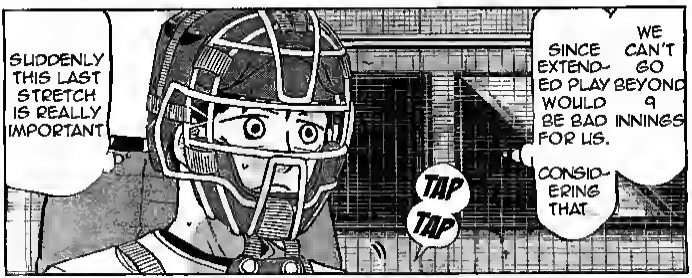


6



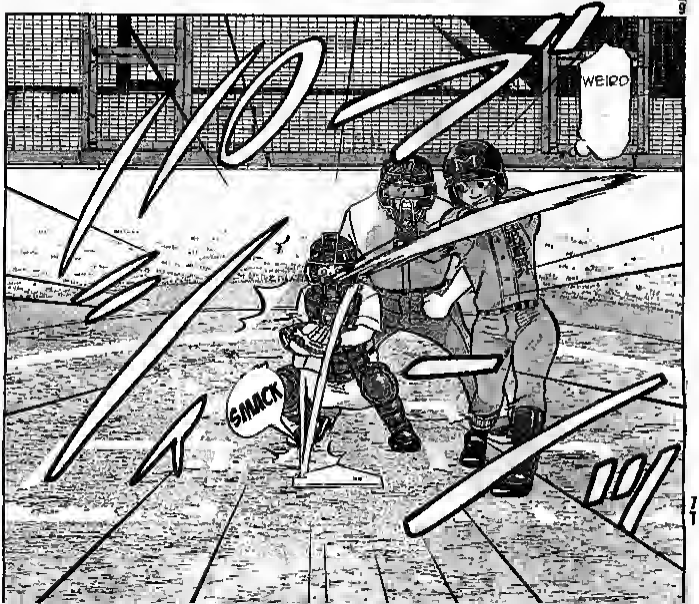
SO YOU'RE GOING TO USE THAT? TAKE THEM BY SUR-PRISE!
PAT
9th inning, Musashino Daiichi High School at bat
BY SUR-PRISE!...?

No. 7 Second Batter, Koike
YES!
IF WE GO INTO EXTRA INNINGS, MUSASHINO WILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
I WANT TO KEEP EVEN ONE POINT!
武蔵野


WE CAN'T GO BEYOND 9 INNINGS
SINCE EXTENDED PLAY WOULD BE BAD FOR US.
CONSIDERING THAT
TAP
TAP
SUDDENLY THIS LAST STRETCH IS REALLY IMPORTANT

FIRST PITCH!
NOW
OUT OF WHAT I'VE THROWN
#7 HAS HAD NO HITS TODAY

ARM
SHAKE
CHECK GRIP
ANO
DON'T LET
Nishiura


WEIRD
SMACK

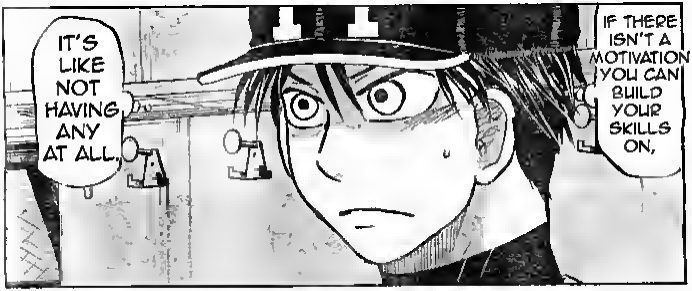
WHA?
EH?!
THAT
.....
?

IT PROBABLY BOUNCED
1
2

HE COULD SEE IT??
NO, THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
?

THE THINGS HE CAN DO AS A CATCHER
ARE THE SAME AS ALWAYS
NAH,
IT'S LIKE

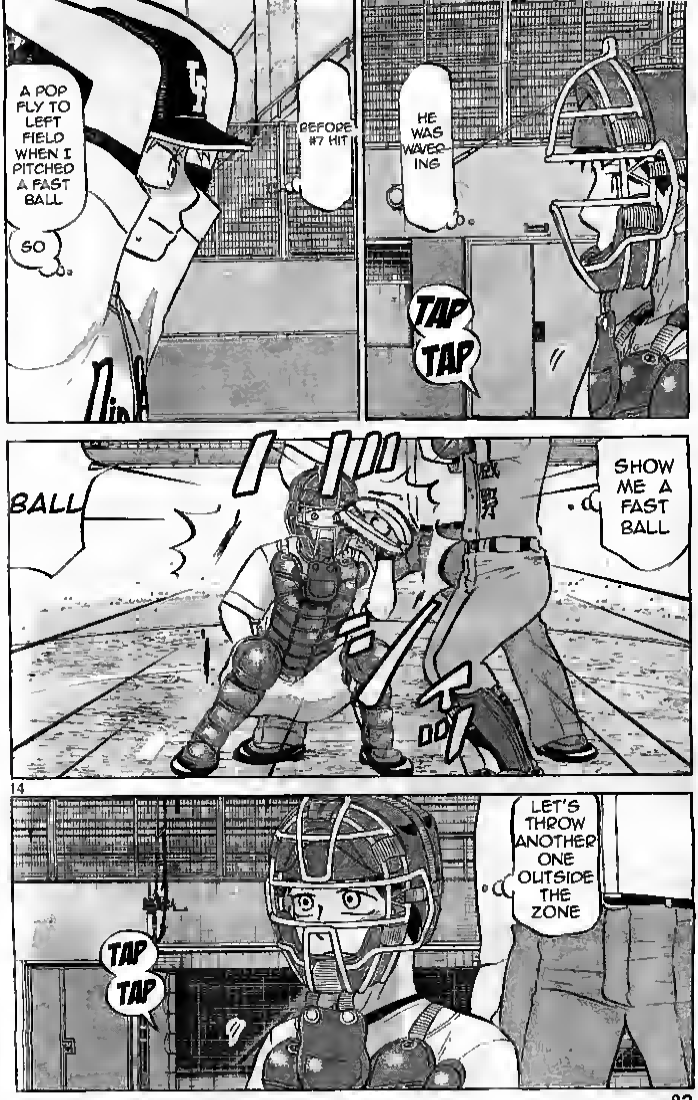
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM EVEN BEFORE THAT...

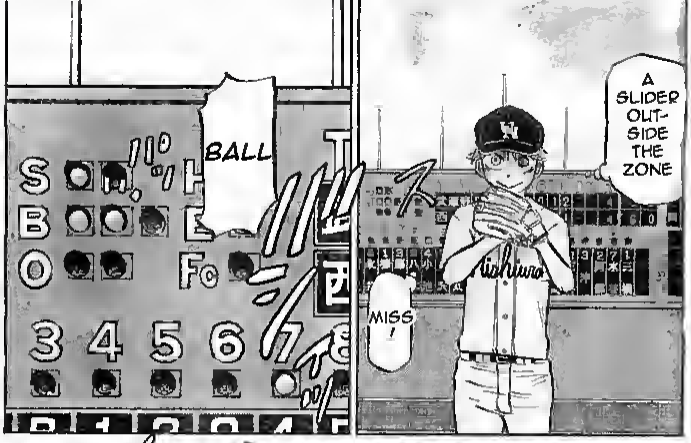

IT'S LIKE NOT HAVING ANY AT ALL.
IF THERE ISN'T A MOTIVATION YOU CAN BUILD YOUR SKILLS ON,

THAT'S WHY HE HASN'T IMPROVED AT ALL.
THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T BUILD ANY SKILLS.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO
PILE UP SO MANY FROM NOW ON.
ALL THE TIME THAT HAS BEEN JUST PASSING THROUGH YOU WITHOUT LEAVING ANYTHING,
IS GOING TO START TO SEED INTO YOU MORE AND MORE!

WAS THAT A CURVE BALL JUST NOW?

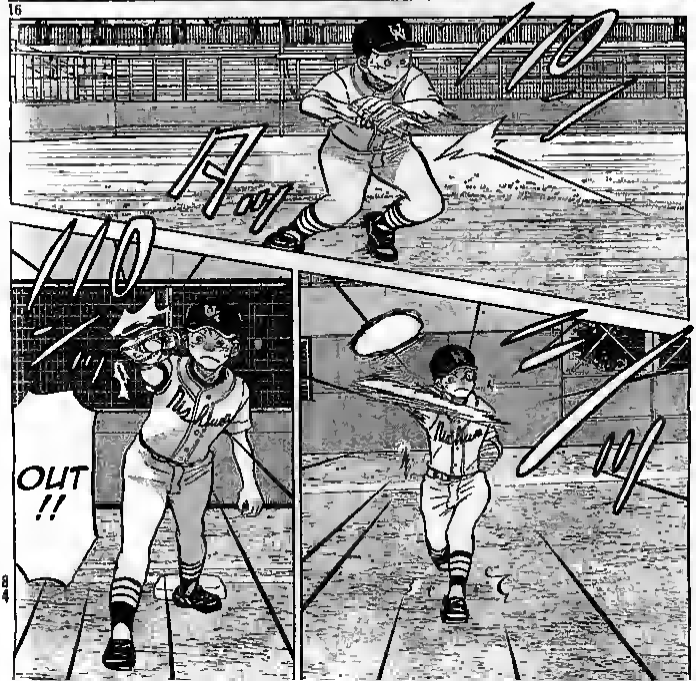

A POP FLY TO LEFT FIELD WHEN I PITCHED A FAST BALL
SO
BEFORE #7 HIT
HE WAS WAVERING
TAP
TAP
BALL
SHOW ME A FAST BALL
14
LET'S THROW ANOTHER ONE OUTSIDE THE ZONE
TAP
TAP


BALL
A SLIDER OUTSIDE THE ZONE
MISS!

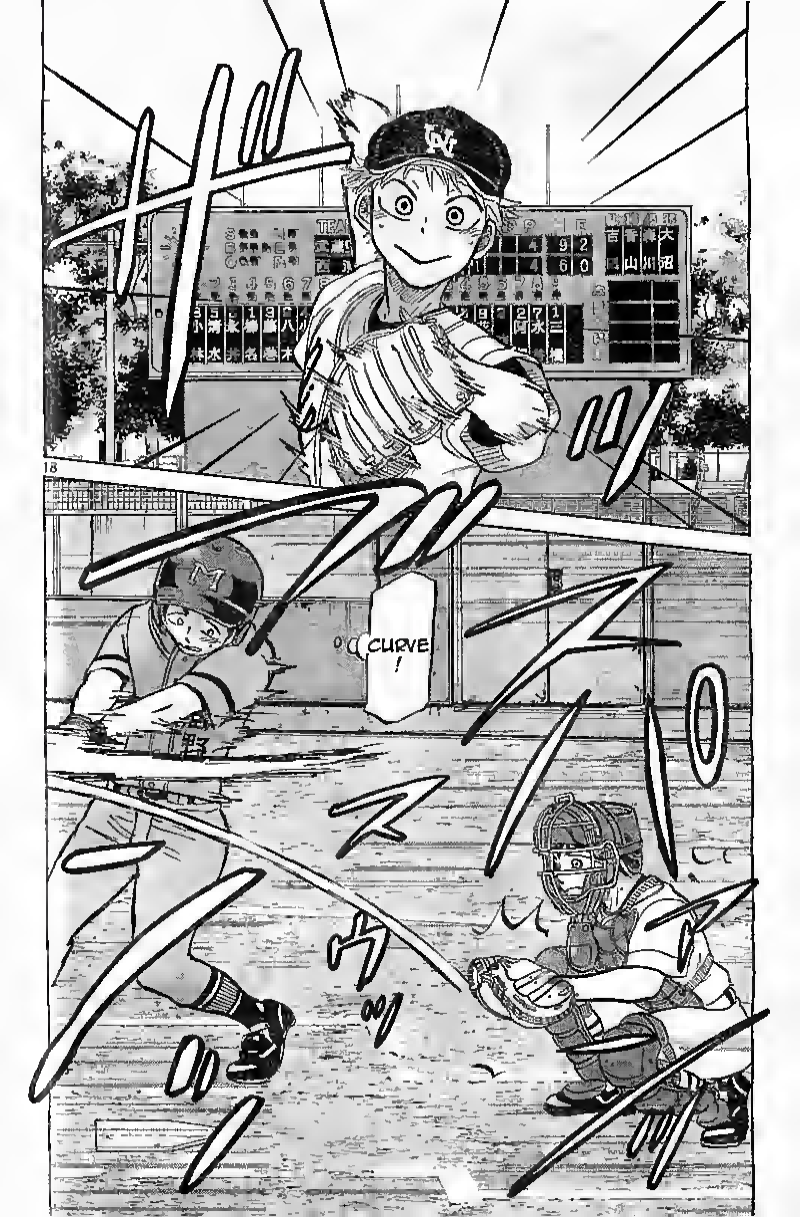
WE USED UP ALL OUR BALLS ON PURPOSE

TO HIT
SHOOTER TO THE INSIDE

16



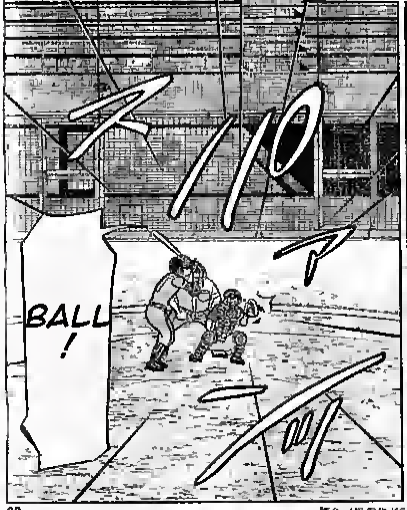
AND I'M NOT SURE I CAN THROW IT
TWO MORE OUTS TO GO
No. 8 Left No. 7 Yoshi-zawa
ONE OUT!
Nishiura
BUT THIS TIME WE CAN GET EVEN THIS GUY OUT!
TAP TAP
#8 HAS 3 HITS
17
AFTER 2 HITS ON IT, WILL THEY CHANGE HOW THEY USE IT?
FAKE FAST BALL
OK!
FIRST BALL
KT


CURVE!

CURV
ES
IT
Nishiura
THIS MUCH DROP IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GET STRIKES.
EVEN IF THE CONTROLS A LITTLE SHAKY,
THAT, AND BECAUSE THE NAME WAS SO COOL.
AS MUCH AS SHUU-CHAN'S
I PRACTICED BECAUSE I WANTED TO THROW A PITCH THAT WOULD DROP

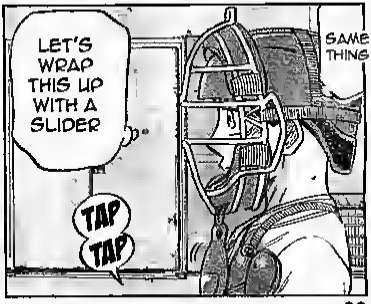
19

I COULDN'T MAKE A CURVE LIKE SHUU-CHAN'S FORK BALL
BE-CAUSE I HAVE NO SPEED
BUT IT DOESN'T DIP VERY MUCH.
1



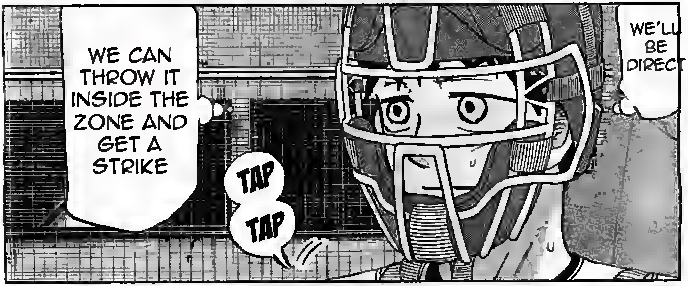
20

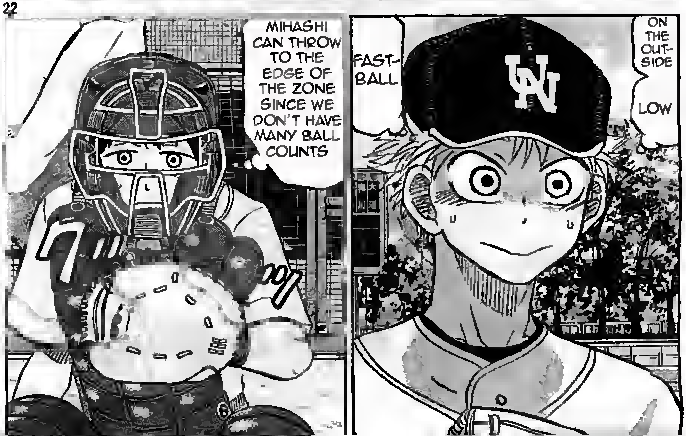
*T/N: HE THINKS MIHASHI GOT A BALL BECAUSE HE WAS TOO NERVOUS



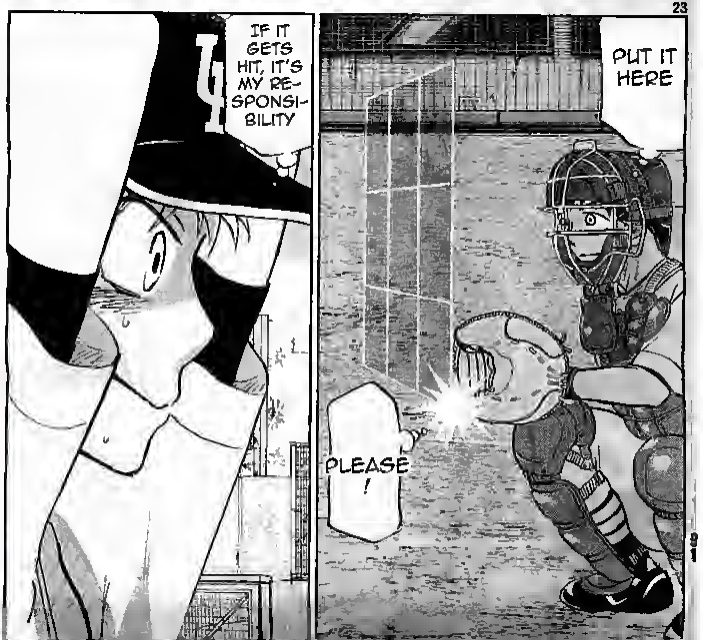
BALL!
STRIKE!
WELL
NOT A BALL

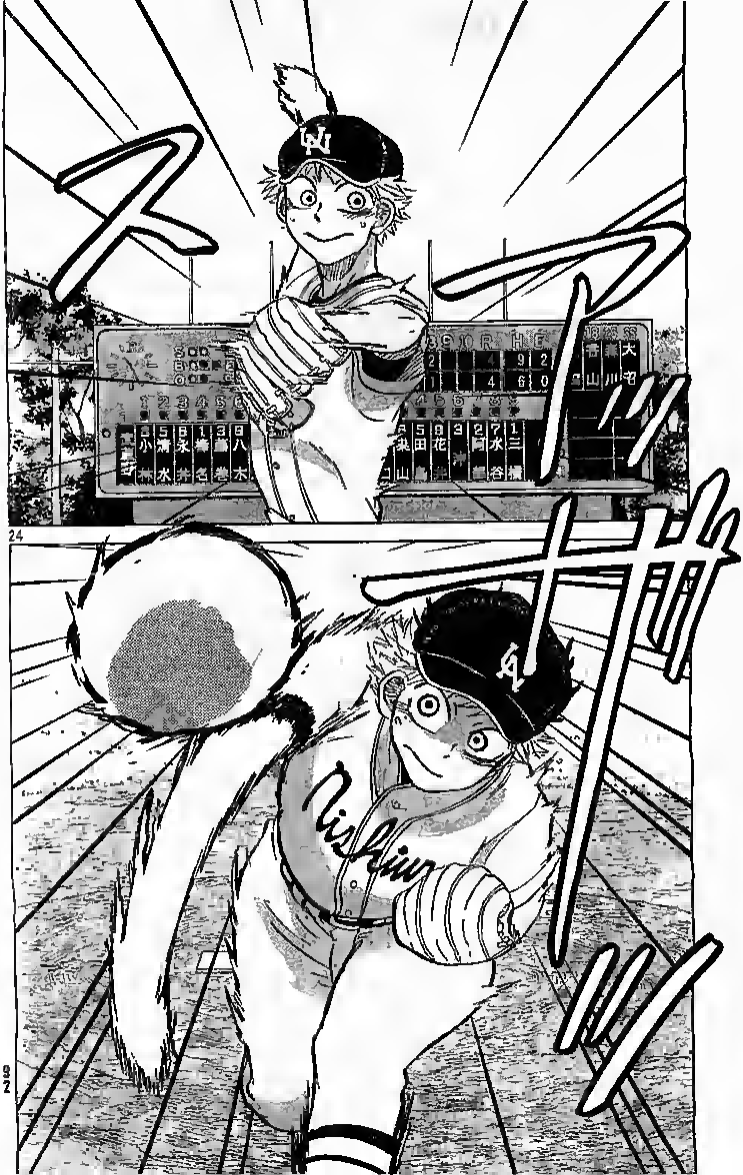
NOBODY WOULD SWING AT A BALL COMING IN AT THAT ANGLE
NICE PITCH-ING!


WE CAN THROW IT INSIDE THE ZONE AND GET A STRIKE
TAP
TAP
WE'LL BE DIRECT


MIHASHI CAN THROW TO THE EDGE OF THE ZONE SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MANY BALL COUNTS
FAST-BALL
ON THE OUT-SIDE
LOW

YOUR CONTROL IS JUST AMAZING!
BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
MAY BE JUST A DECEP-TION,
YOUR FAST-BALL


IF IT GETS HIT, IT'S MY RE-SPONSI-BILITY
PUT IT HERE
PLEASE!

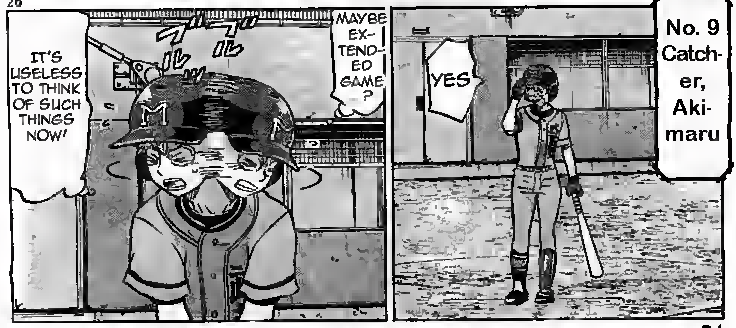

ナイス
ピッチ
24

BA
...
NO
!

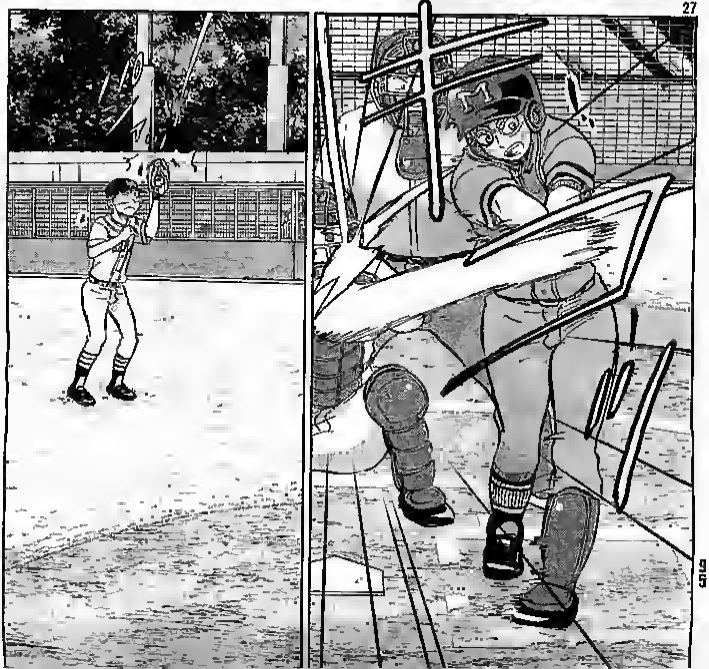
HOW
ABOUT
IT!?

IT'S ALL THANKS TO ABE!
I GOT 3 STRIKES
STRIKE!
OUT!

26


IT'S USELESS TO THINK OF SUCH THINGS NOW!
MAYBE EX-TENDED GAME?
YES
No. 9 Catch-er, Aki-maru

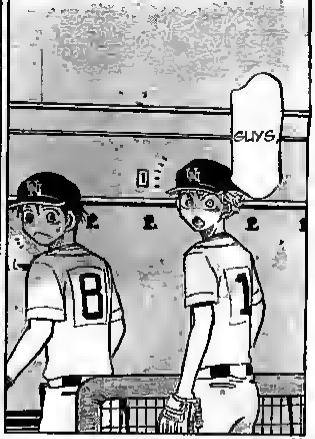
I CAN STILL TURN THIS AROUND!
IF I RUN



YOU WANT TO BAT, DON'T YOU?
武蔵野
!!
IF THIS KEEPS UP
THIS ISN'T GOOD. I'M NO GOOD.

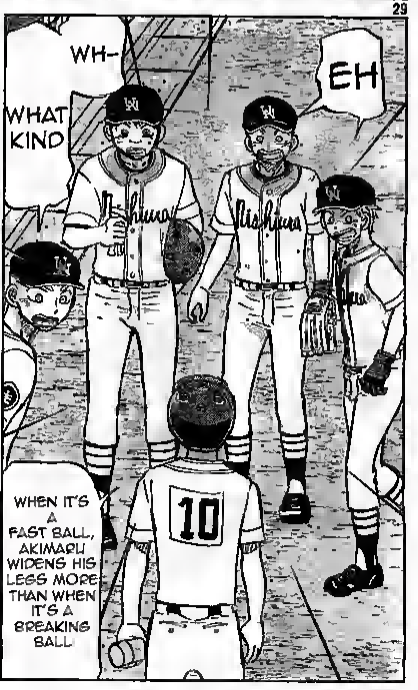
WA HA HA HA
WHA !?
!!

I CAUGHT A CATCHER'S HABIT
I THINK
Nishimura


GUYS,
8
1

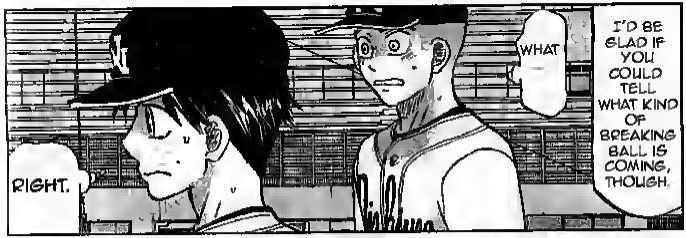
29

ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT PERCENT


WH-
WHAT KIND
EH
Nishimura
Nishimura
10
WHEN IT'S A FAST BALL, AKIMARU WIDENS HIS EYES MORE THAN WHEN IT'S A BREAKING BALL

I'M NOT 100% SURE

I CAN TELL WHEN A FAST-BALL COMES, ANYWAY.
THEN I DON'T NEED IT,

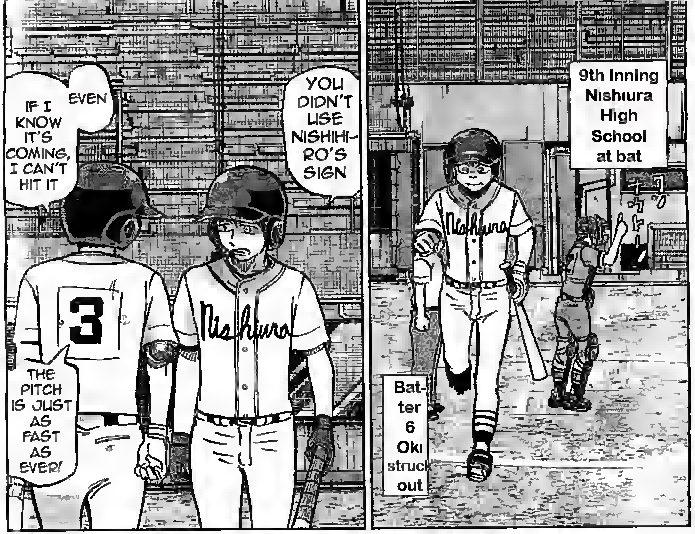

I'D BE GLAD IF YOU COULD TELL WHAT KIND OF BREAKING BALL IS COMING, THOUGH.
WHAT
RIGHT.

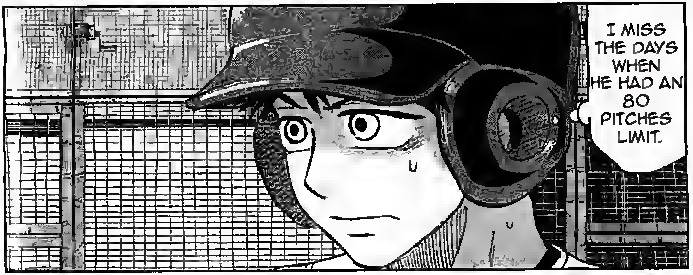
M-
I WANT TO AIM FOR HIS FAST BALL
I
ME TOO

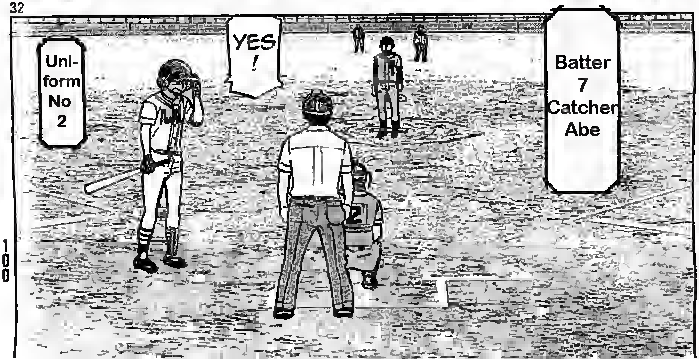
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME
SINCE HARUNA THROWS A FAST BALL OFTEN

I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN HIT IT, THOUGH
OK
YOU CAN DO IT!
BUT FOR A BREAK-ING BALL HE TAKES A HAND AWAY
THERE IS ONE HAND THAT SAYS AT THE WAIST
HE PUTS HIS HANDS ON HIS WAIST FOR A FAST-BALL
WELL

*LEAD-OFF = FIRST MAN BATTING

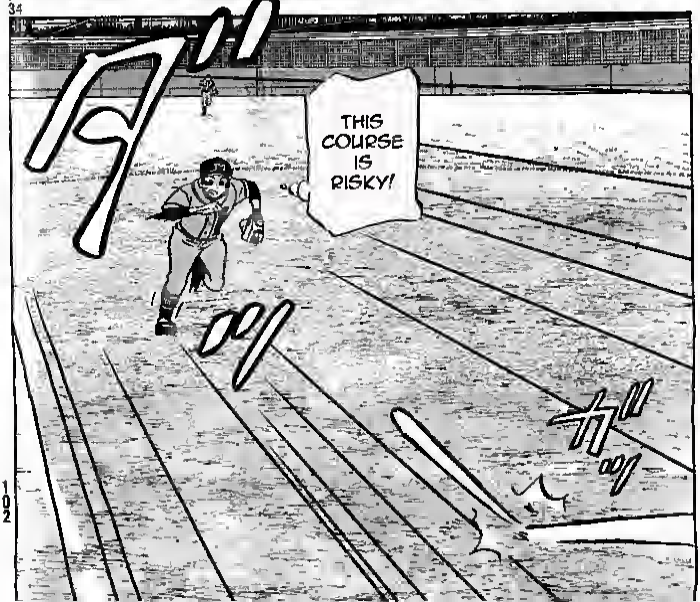

IF I KNOW IT'S COMING, I CAN'T HIT IT
EVEN
YOU DIDN'T USE NISHIHIRO'S SIGN
THE PITCH IS JUST AS FAST AS EVER!
9th Inning Nishiura High School at bat
Batter 6 Oki struck out

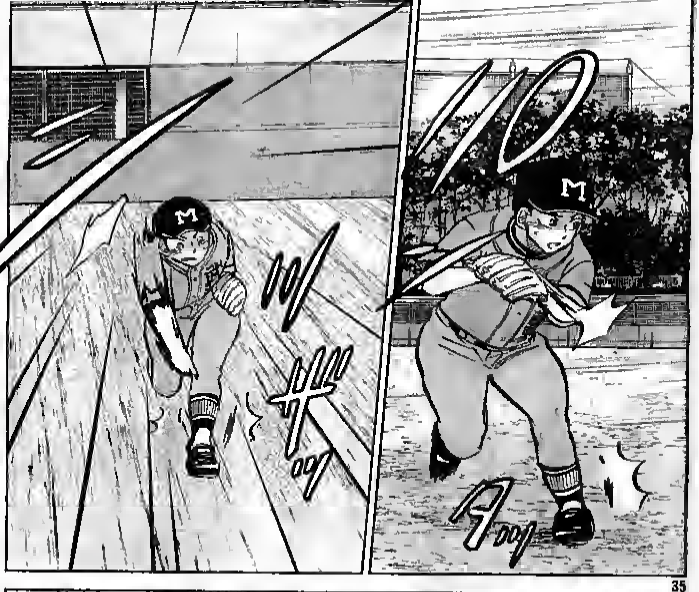

I MISS THE DAYS WHEN HE HAD AN 80 PITCHES LIMIT.


Uniform No 2
YES!
Batter 7 Catcher Abe

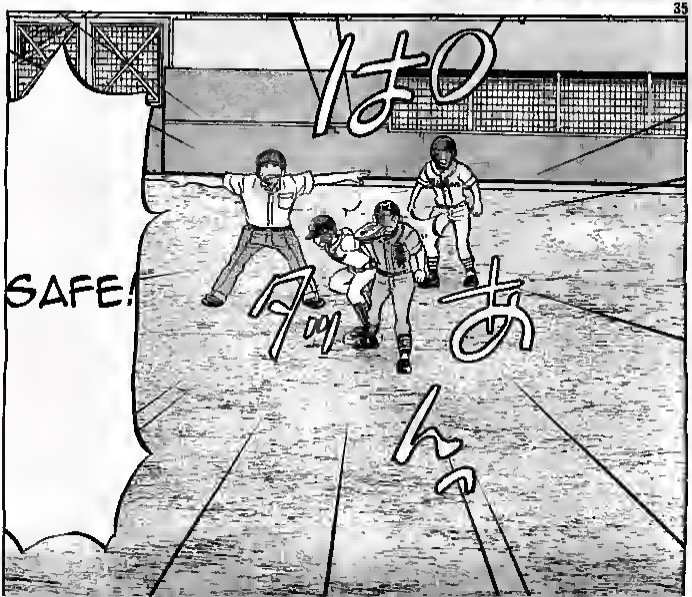
IF I WAS CATCHER, I'D AVOID BREAKING BALLS SO AS NOT TO HIT THE BATTER
HE HAS PITCHED 7 CONSECUTIVE FASTBALLS
武蔵野
TAP TAP
FAST BALL!

34





35



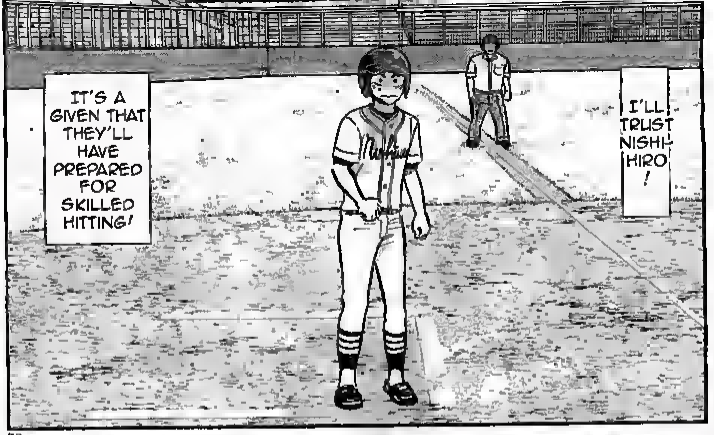
NICE BAT-TING!
YES!

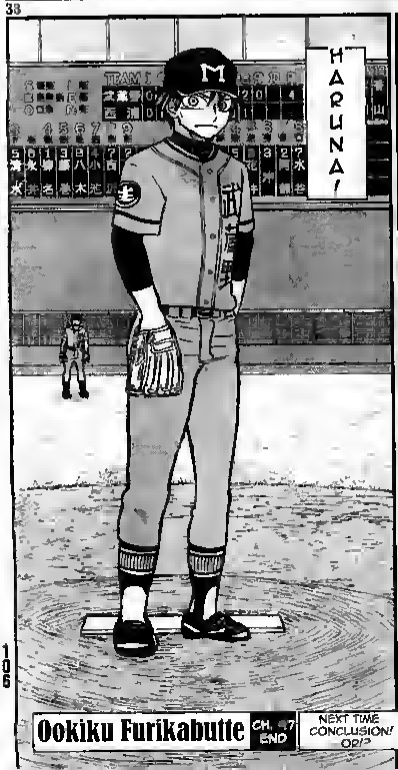
AN INFIELD BUNT AFTER ALL
WAS ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET TO BASE. IT'S OUR WIN!

SO YOU LOSE THE BATTLE TO WIN THE WAR, HUH?
YOU SURE ARE *THAT* TYPE.

I'LL RUN TO STEAL A BASE,
SO DON'T MISS A GOOD BALL!
WILL HE HIT THE FIRST PITCH?
PAT
HIT, MIZUTANI!
MIHASHI ... NO!
PAT
HIT, MIZU-TANI!!

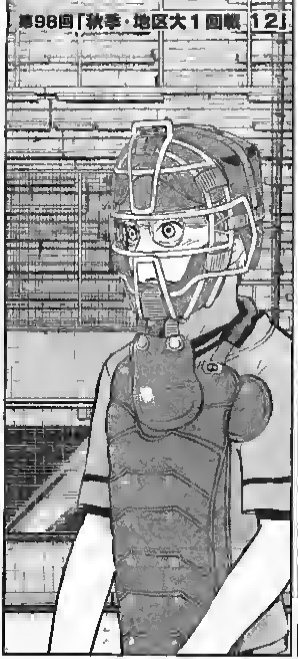
TIME TO SHINE, ISN'T IT!
THIS IS MY
WE HAVE A GUY ON BASE.



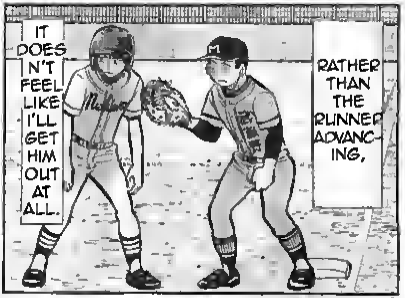


Ookiku Furikabutte CH. 37 END

NEXT TIME: CONCLUSION! OR!?



HE'LL TRY TO STEAL A BASE ON THE FIRST RUN.


IT DOES N'T FEEL LIKE I'LL GET HIM OUT AT ALL.
RATHER THAN THE RUNNER ADVANC-ING,

MOST LIKELY NEVER GET TO CATCH FOR HARUNA AGAIN.
I WILL ...

IF I GET SWITCHED OUT FOR SHIMIZU,

GET HIM OUT!
THROW IT TO THE OUTSIDE ...
SECOND BASE IS COVERED.
おおきく振りかぶって
ひぐちアサ

HIS POSTURE IS TO THE OUTSIDE

IT'LL BE A FASTBALL
NISHIHIRO THINKS

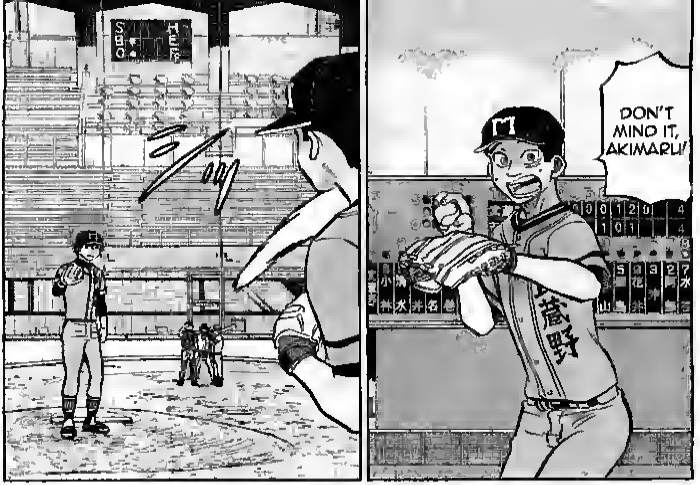
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LAUGH IF WE GET STRUCK OUT BY HARUNA LIKE THIS
IT'D BE DANGEROUS TO UNDERESTIMATE THE CATCHER TOO MUCH
3
A FASTBALL
ABE WILL RUN TO STEAL A BASE, SO I DON'T NEED TO TO WORRY ABOUT A DOUBLE PLAY
AFTER ALL, THERE IS SUCH A THING CALLED "LUCK" IN THIS WORLD.

1
I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM DOWN SO LONG AS THE COURSE OF THE BALL ISN'T WRONG.

4

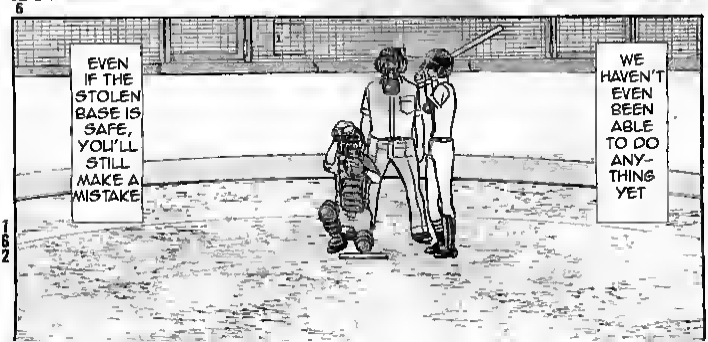
STRIKE OUT!
武蔵野

はハ
ノハハ
ミ
5
181

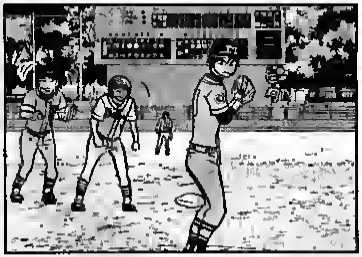

DON'T MIND IT, AKIMARU!

I KNOW THAT YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO
GET AN OUT

6

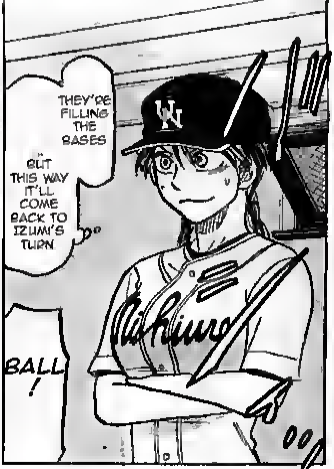

EVEN IF THE STOLEN BASE IS SAFE, YOU'LL STILL MAKE A MISTAKE
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO DO ANY-THING YET

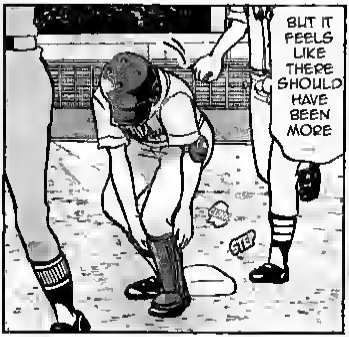
YOUR CHANGE-UP IS GOING TO CHANGE THE TEAM!
IT WAS A BALL
SO IT'D BE BETTER TO FILL UP THE BASES, RIGHT?
TAP TAP
AN INTENTIONAL WALK. BATTERS 9 AND 1, HUH?
EVEN IF WE DON'T GET A DOUBLE PLAY WITH THE 9TH BATTER,
I CAN HOLD OFF THE 1ST BATTER



8

BALL 4!


THEY'RE FILLING THE BASES
BUT THIS WAY IT'LL COME BACK TO IZUMI'S TURN
BALL!


BUT IT FEELS LIKE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE
SIGH

I GUESS IT'S FINE SINCE I GET TO GO...
SIGH
SIGH

DON'T FEEL SAFE BECAUSE THERE'S A RUNNER IN FRONT OF YOU!
JOLT

THERE COULD BE A DOUBLE PLAY BECAUSE OF YOU.
WHAT?
6
7

10

AT WORST, IT'LL BE A DOUBLE PLAY, THE INFIELD IS READY FOR A BUNT
...BUT
MIHASHI WAS SUCCESS-FUL WITH A BUNT BEFORE AND IT HAS A BETTER CHANCE THAN A HIT.
PAT
Nishiura

I'LL GIVE YOU INSTRUC-TIONS AS WELL, BUT WATCH CAREFULLY FROM THE FIRST STEP!
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FEINTS

O-
OK!

BUNT!
MIHASHI IS STRONG UNDER PRESSURE.
HE'LL DEFINITELY GROUND THE BALL THIS TIME TOO!
GRIP!

11

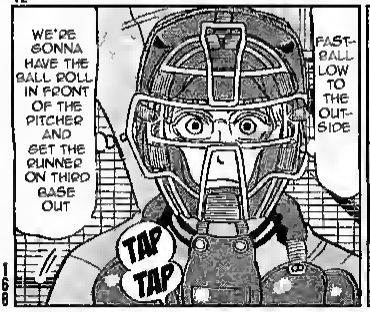
I WON'T FAIL!
I'M GOING TO BUNT!
YES!
Batter 9, Pitcher, Mihashi

IF ABE CAN GET HOME ---

IZUMI'S TURN WILL COME

WE WILL WIN AGAINST MUSA-SHINO!

12

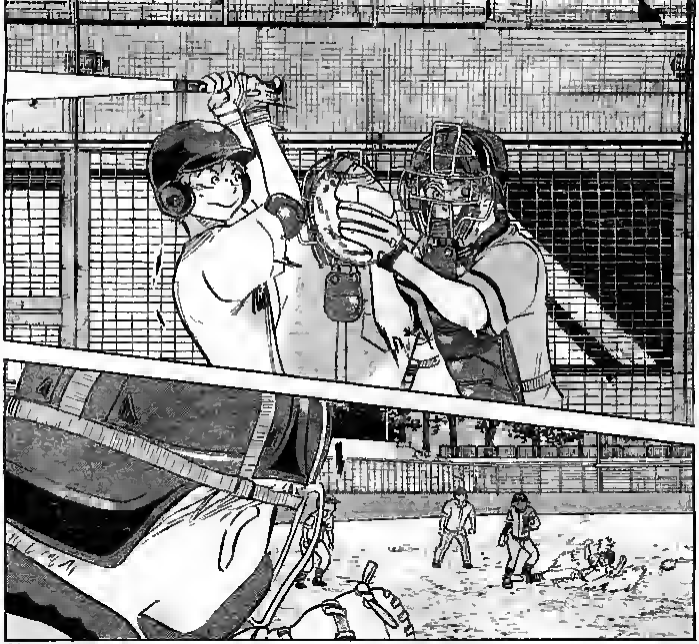

WE'RE GONNA HAVE THE BALL ROLL IN FRONT OF THE PITCHER AND GET THE RUNNER ON THIRD BASE OUT
FAST-BALL LOW TO THE OUT-SIDE
TAP TAP

IT'LL BE A FAST BALL TO THE LOWER OUTSIDE CORNER
HE'LL PROB-ABLY BUNT

168

LOW OUTSIDE CORNER.
THEY WANT TO FORCE OUT THIRD BASE.
THE SIGN IS TO BUNT, IS THIS AL-RIGHT?!

13
HE'S RUN-NING!!



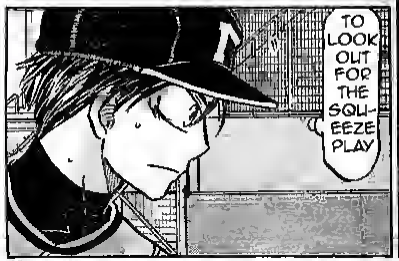
14

ABE TOTALLY IGNORED MY SIGNS!
WELL, I DID TELL THEM TO GO IF THEY COULD ...
IF A WILD PITCH IS THROWN THE GAME WILL BE OVER.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT CATCHER WILL CHANCE IT.
1

SHOULD WE LET THE RUNNER ON FIRST BASE RUN?
NOW, IF WE DID A BUNT, IT'D TURN INTO A SQUEEZE.
I'LL APPROVE OF IT SINCE THE RESULT IS GOOD.
SO A SQUEEZE PLAY IS A POSSIBILITY.
NISHIURA PROBABLY KNOWS HOW BAD I AM AT CLOSE PLAYS.

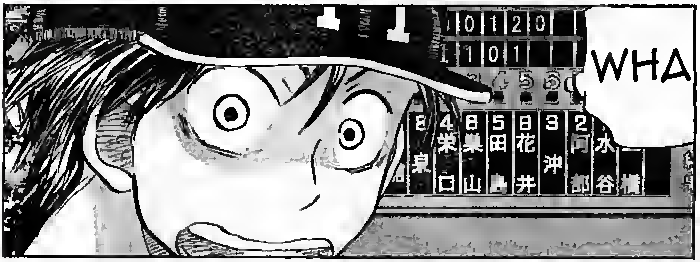
MISS THE FIRST TIME!
IT'S OK TO PUT IT IN THE GROUND
TAP TAP

BATTER 9 IS DEFINITELY GOING TO BUNT

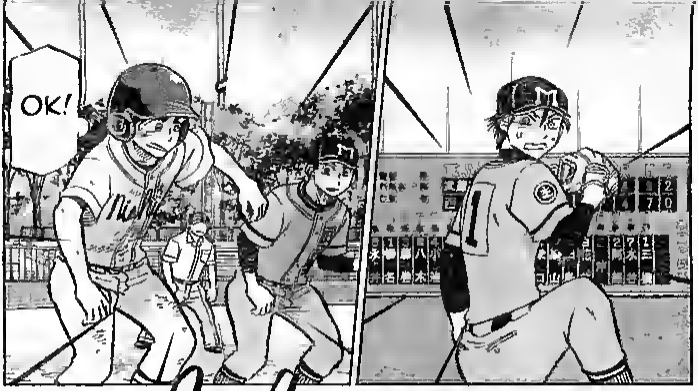

TO LOOK OUT FOR THE SQUEEZE PLAY

STARE

SPRINT

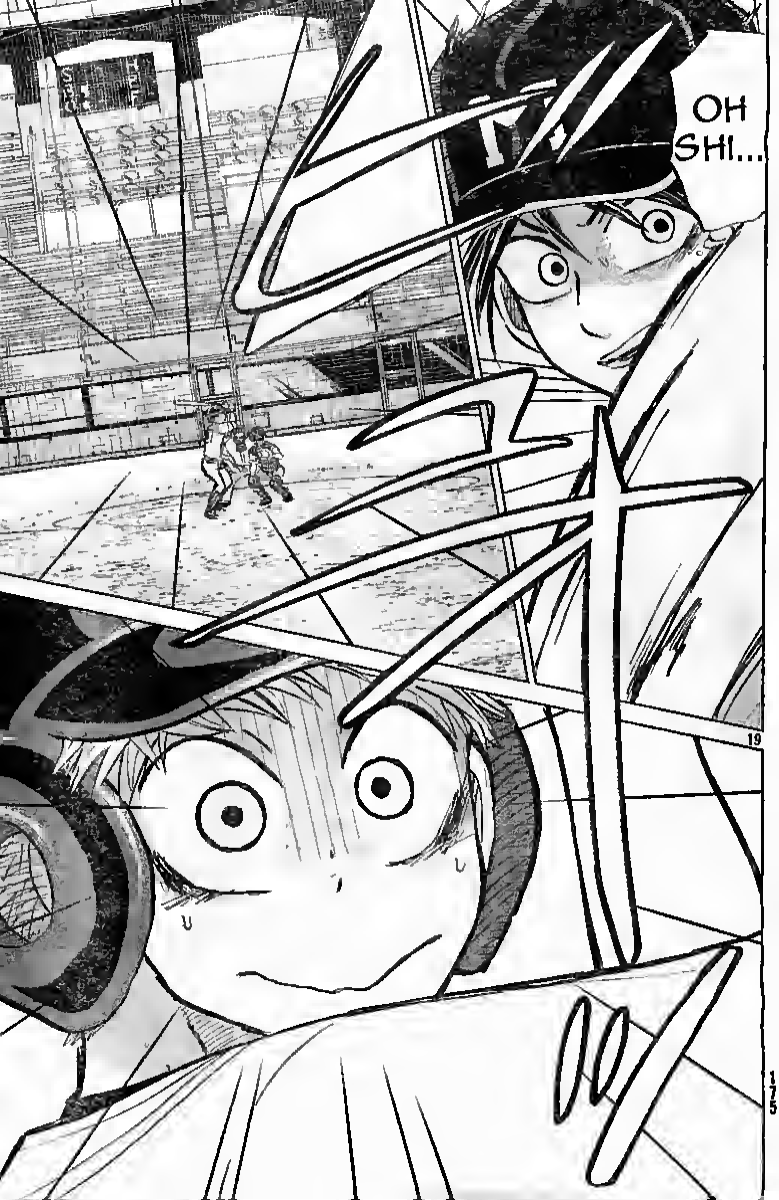

WHA
0 1 2 3
1 0 1
4 米口
8 巣山
5 田
8 花井
3 沖
2 部
水谷
泉

HE DIDN'T MOVE MUCH, BUT HIS PITCHING MOTION CLEARLY STARTED.
TOO SOON!!


OK!

ナル
武蔵野
ツ
18

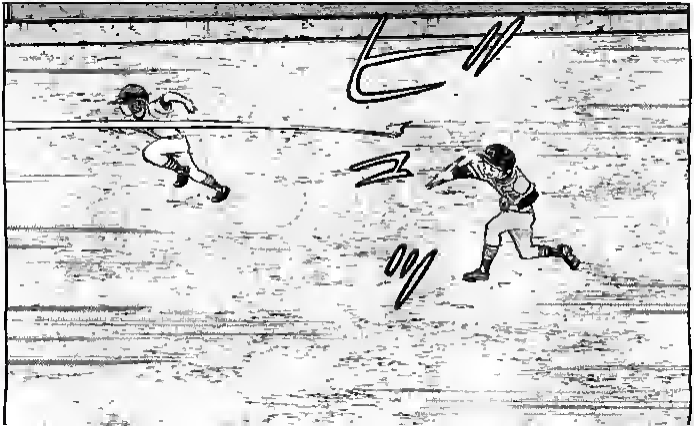
ナル
ナル


OH SHI...
19

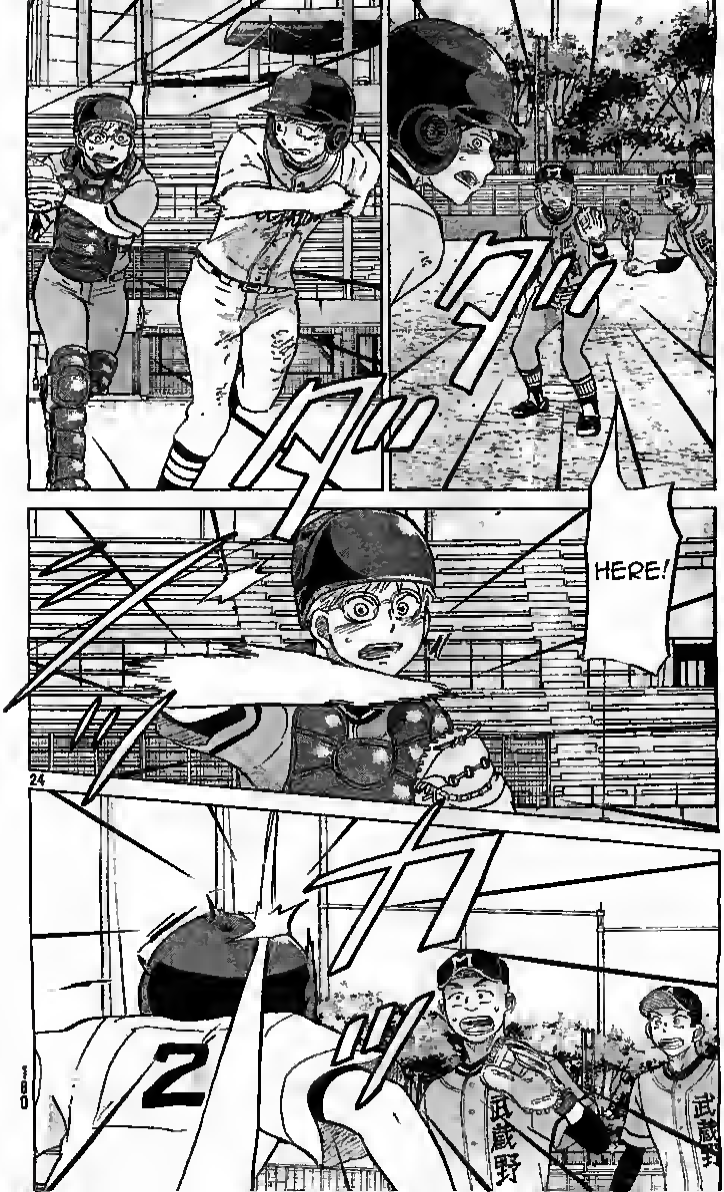
20

10
WHAT?!

22



10
!!
Mikuma
23

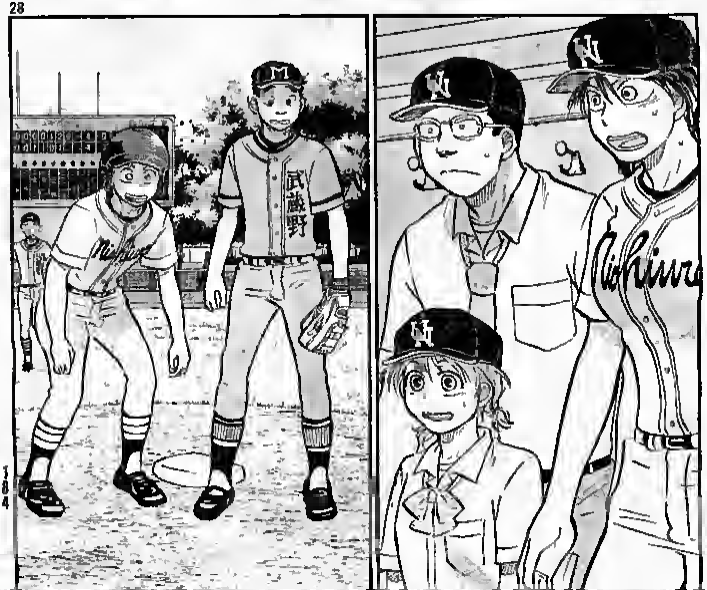

HERE!
武蔵野
武蔵野

GO!
GO!

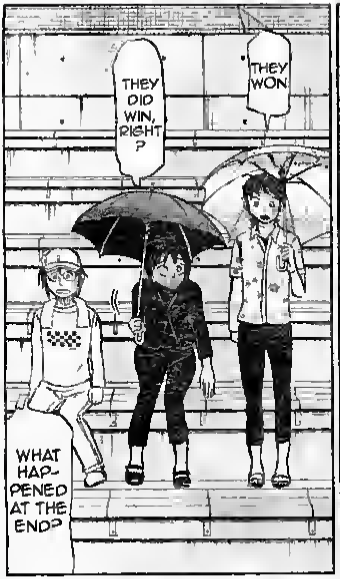
BACK HOME !!
Nishiura
26
IT'S AN OUT
1

RUN TO THE INSIDE AND DODGE HIM!!
27
SAFE!!

28



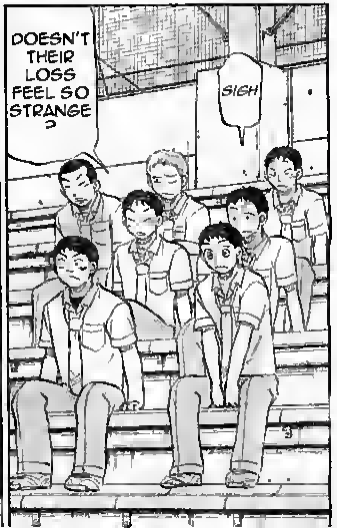
スク
YEAH!
NICE RUN!
29
スク
8
2
武蔵野


WHAT HAP-PENED AT THE END?
THEY DID WIN, RIGHT?
THEY WON.

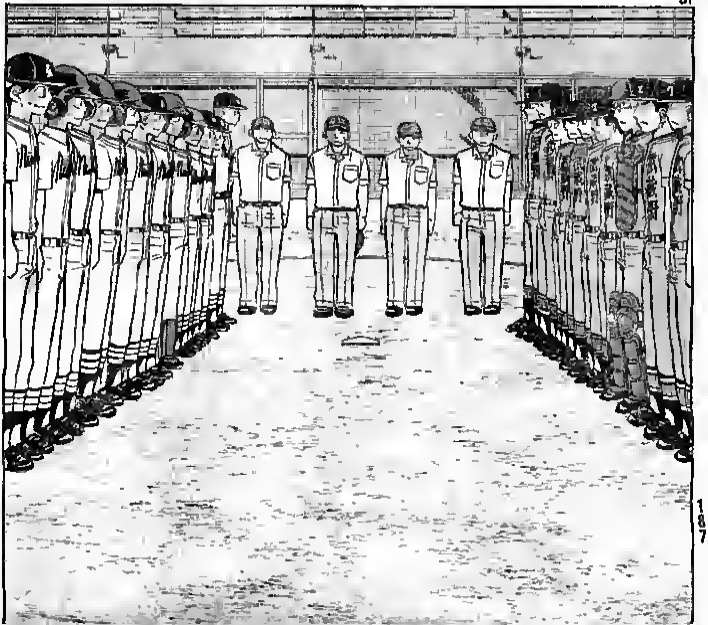
WE
WE NEED TO LINE UP!
YEAH

30

.....

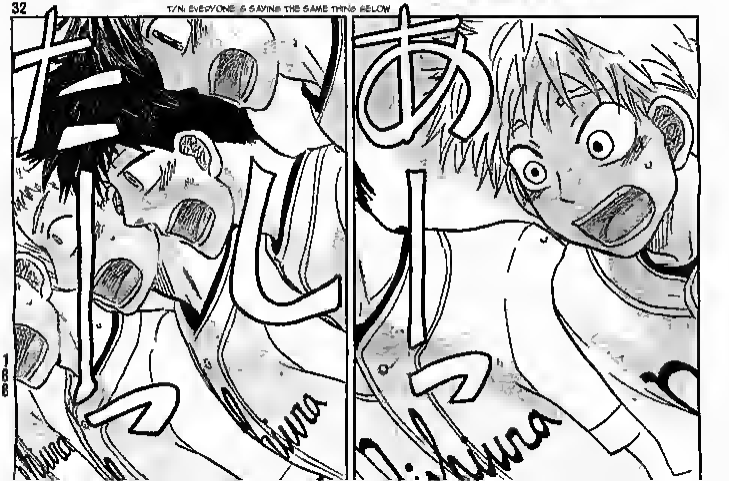

DOESN'T THEIR LOSS FEEL SO STRANGE?
SIGH

* A WAY OF ADDRESSING YOUR SENIOR IN JAPAN



32

T/N: EVERYONE IS SAYING THE SAME THING BELOW

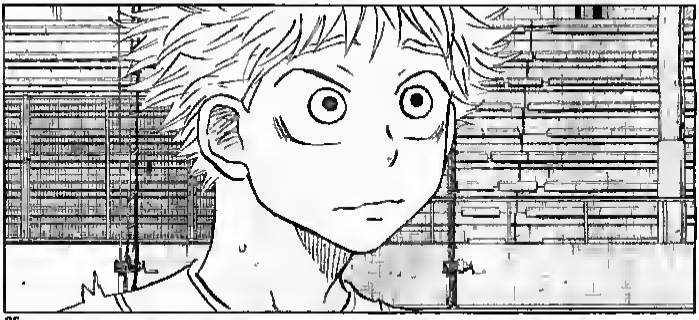


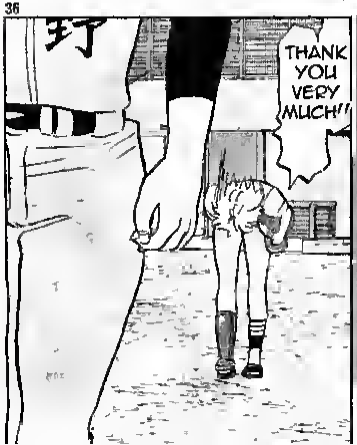
武蔵野
Nishimura
Nishimura
Nishimura
武蔵野
33

WHAT WAS THAT DROPPING PITCH YOU THREW IN THE 9TH INN-ING?
武蔵野
SMACK
A KNU--
34
ARE YOU SERIOUS-LY THIS MUCH OF A BASTARD?
HA?
YOU PITCHED VERY WELL UNTIL THE END.

35

IT'LL BE WORTH IT.
YOU SHOULD PRACTICE YOUR BACK SPIN.




THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

THA-

A. The dish mentioned in this chapter, Subuta, can be translated to "sweet and sour pork" and looks like this:

B. When Mihashi enters Abe's home, he says "おじゃまします。" (Ojama shimasu) which means literally "I will disturb you" or "I will get in your way" and is a traditional greeting for a guest
Abe's mom replies with "いらっしゃい。" (Irasshai) which is an informal welcome of a host

C. Quotations are used like crazy in this chapter - rather than taking them as quotes, please take them instead as a form of putting emphasis on the phrase.

D. Abe uses two words, one to describe the traditional "fastball" that takes advantage of backspin, and one that refers to Mihashi's pseudo-fastball.
I use "fastball" to refer to the traditional fastball, and "straight" (from the Japanese word for fastball) to refer to Mihashi's pseudo-fastball.

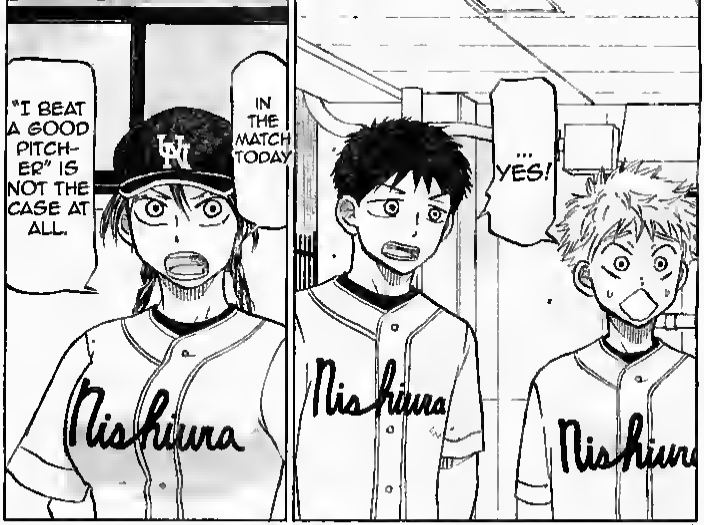
TODAY, TRULY
WE COULDN'T HIT THE BALL, RIGHT~?
Nishiura
6

ONE POINT WAS A HOME RUN
AS FOR THE SCORE
Nishiura
WE GOT 5 DECENT HITS!

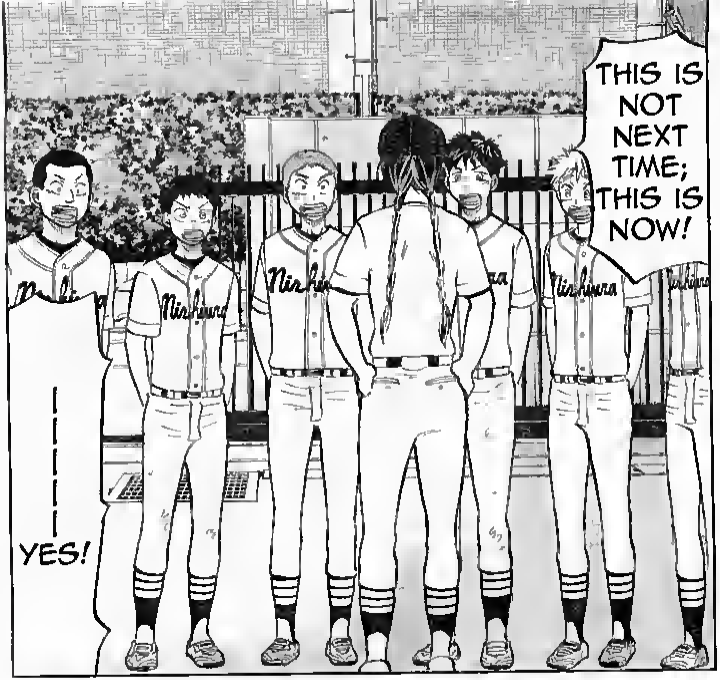
3 POINTS OUT OF 5 WERE DUE TO THE OTHER TEAM'S ERRORS!

2

THE BATTERY HAS MUCH TO REFLECT ON!
ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO MISTAKE THIS TIME,


"I BEAT A GOOD PITCHER" IS NOT THE CASE AT ALL.
IN THE MATCH TODAY
...YES!
Nishiura
Nishiura
Nishiura

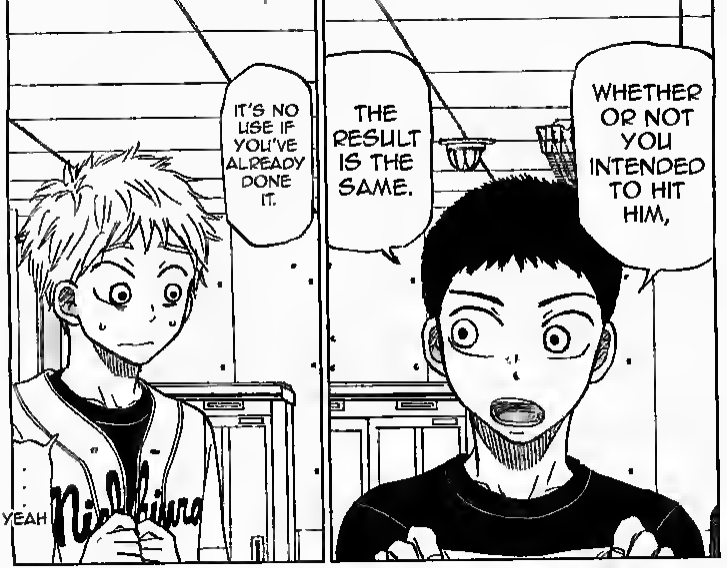
DON'T THINK HE'LL BE THE SAME IN SUMMER!
THAT CATCHER
THAT IS TO SAY
"A MATCH THAT I COULDN'T WIN WITHOUT BEING GIVEN 3 POINTS" IS HOW YOU SHOULD SEE IT.
7
Nishiura


THIS IS NOT NEXT TIME; THIS IS NOW!
YES!

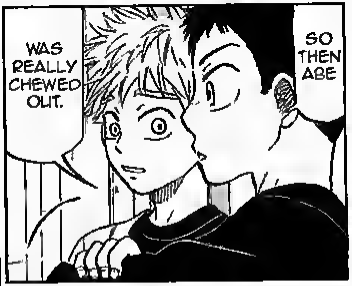
4

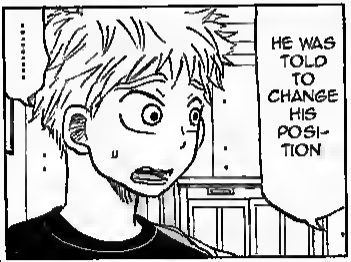
AZUSA'S HOME RUN ♡ ♡
SHE'S AWE-SOME, RIGHT?
SER-IOUS-LY
COACH IS SO COOL

EH
WHAT WAS THE BATTERY SUPPOSED TO REFLECT ON?
THE PITCHES WERE THE FASTEST IN THE LAST INNING, RIGHT?
THE EARLIER INNINGS WERE EASIER TO HIT.
USED
THAT TO HARUNA
FLINCH
THE ONE IN THE 4TH INNING!
5
HEY
YOU KNOW, HARUNA HAD TO DODGE THAT PITCH.
THAT WASN'T ON PUR-POSE
53

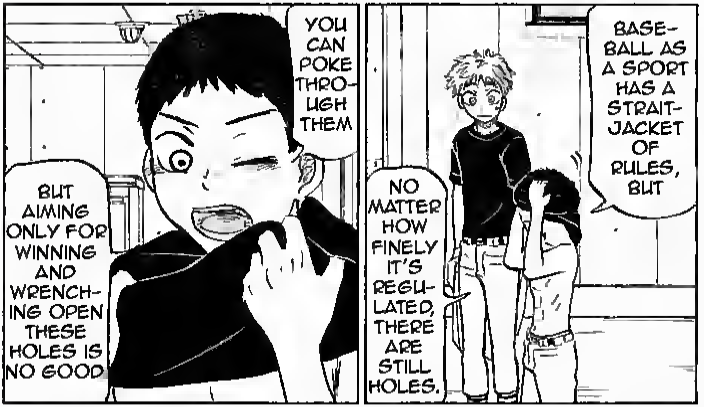

WHETHER OR NOT YOU INTENDED TO HIT HIM,
THE RESULT IS THE SAME.
IT'S NO USE IF YOU'VE ALREADY DONE IT.
YEAH

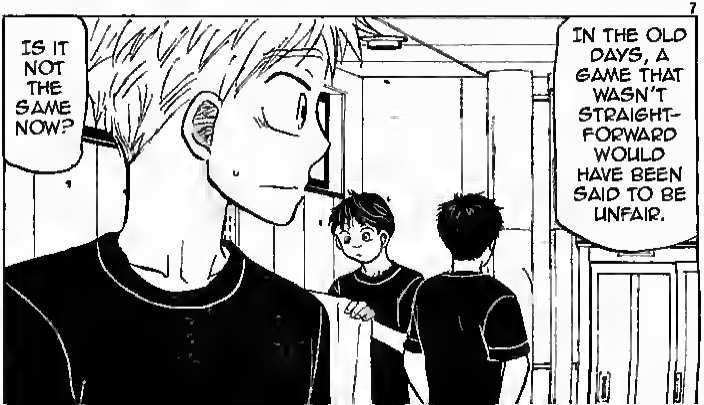
WELL, IT'S AS ONE WOULD EXPECT.
IT'S GOOD WHEN HE WINS FAIRLY, BUT ABE HAS ONLY WINNING IN MIND.


SO THEN ABE
WAS REALLY CHEWED OUT.

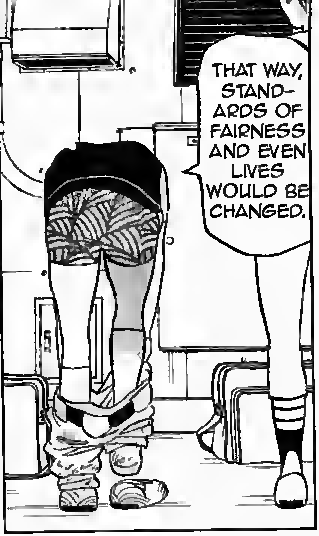

HE WAS TOLD TO CHANGE HIS POSI-TION
.....

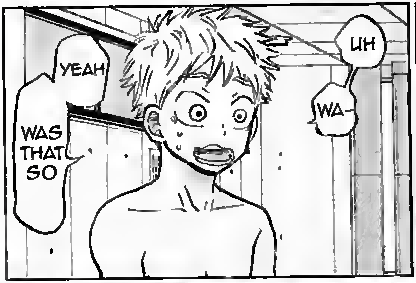
THAT IS-!
GOOD?
NO

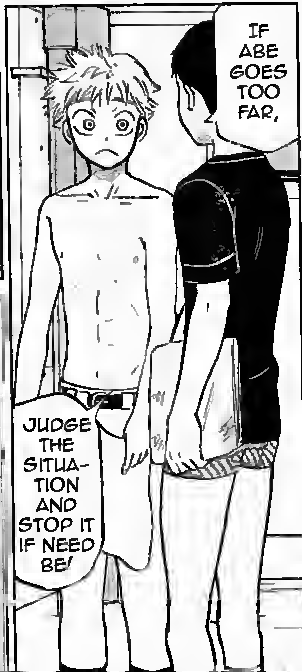

BUT AIMING ONLY FOR WINNING AND WRENCHING OPEN THESE HOLES IS NO GOOD.
YOU CAN POKE THROUGH THEM
NO MATTER HOW FINELY IT'S REGULATED, THERE ARE STILL HOLES.
BASEBALL AS A SPORT HAS A STRAITJACKET OF RULES, BUT


IS IT NOT THE SAME NOW?
IN THE OLD DAYS, A GAME THAT WASN'T STRAIGHTFORWARD WOULD HAVE BEEN SAID TO BE UNFAIR.

YOU SHOULD-N'T LET SOME-ONE GET INJURED.
BASE-BALL WOULD NO LONGER BE INTER-ESTING!


THAT WAY, STAND-ARDS OF FAIRNESS AND EVEN LIVES WOULD BE CHANGED.


YEAH
WAS THAT SO
UH
WA-


IF ABE GOES TOO FAR,
JUDGE THE SITUA-TION AND STOP IT IF NEED BE!

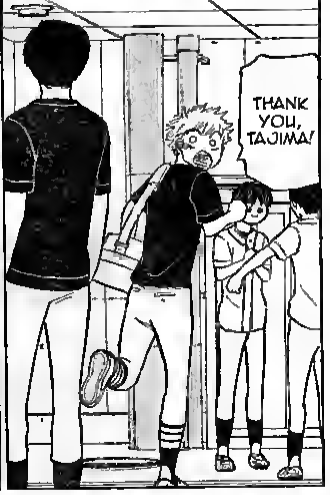
WILL!
I

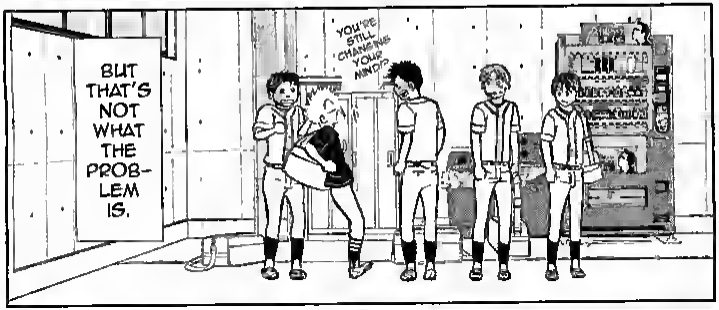
MY BODY WILL NOT RAPIDLY GROW
IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF I FEEL DISCOURAGED.
I'M NOT AMAZING
YOU UNDERSTAND SO MANY THINGS. IS AMAZING
TAJIMA

THAT I AM NOT CAPABLE OF A HOME RUN.
BUT I THINK

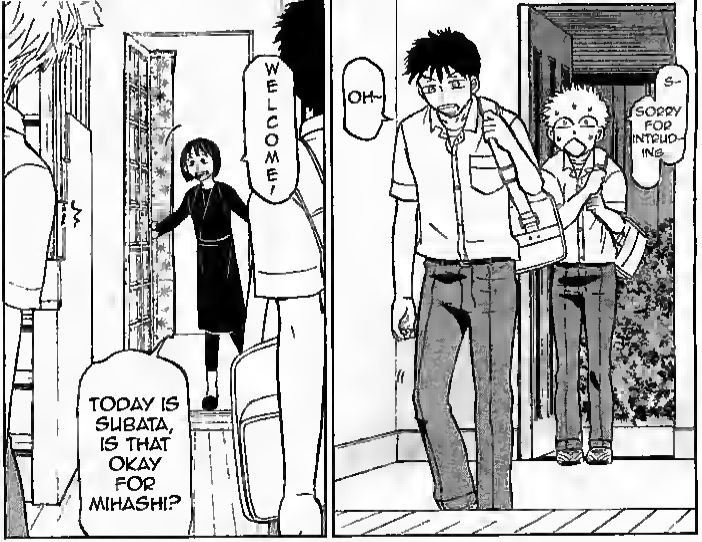
I MUST GO TALK!
CHASE HIM, GO TALK.
I SEE!
I-

AND I CAN'T BE HANAI,
MIHASHI CAN'T BE HARUNA,


THANK YOU, TAJIMA!


BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PROB-LEM IS.
YOU'RE STILL THINKING YOUR MIND?

I'M HOME


WELCOME!
TODAY IS SUBATA, IS THAT OKAY FOR MIHASHI?
OH--
S--
SORRY FOR INTRUDING.

THIS KID HAS NO MANNERS!
LET'S TALK IN MY ROOM FOR A BIT.
IF HE CAN'T EAT IT, SO BE IT.
SUBATA

BUT YOUR ROOM IS THE SAME.
IT'S DIRTY

?
BEEP
DO ENTER ?
U~M

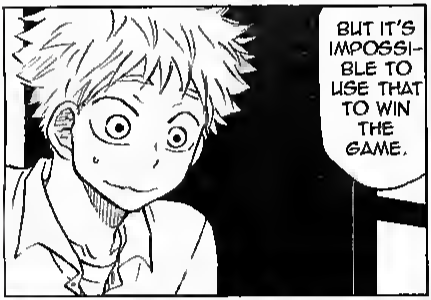
12

IN THE FIRST PLACE MOST GUYS DON'T THROW A COMPLETE BACKSPIN.
EVEN WHEN THROWING WITH BACK-SPIN,
PUT YOUR BAG DOWN
NEVER MIND
SIT DOWN

IF YOU PITCHED THE TEXT BOOK DEFINITION OF AN OVERHAND THROW,
BECAUSE YOU SWING YOUR ARM DOWN DIAGONALLY WHILE TWISTING IT INWARDLY,
IF YOU THINK NORMALLY, THE SHOT ROTATES ...

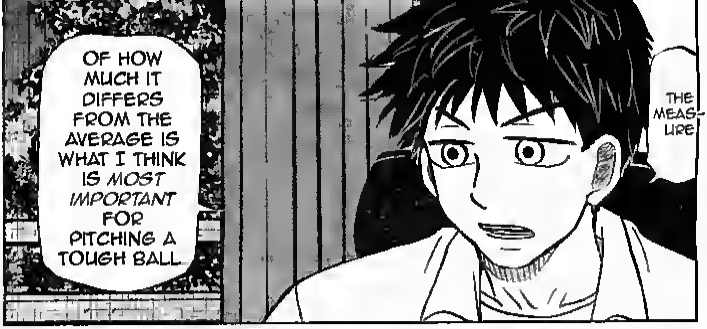
THREE QUARTERS MORE THAN USUAL.
YOU AND HARUNA SAY TO COPY THE "FASTBALL" BASICALLY BECAUSE OF THE EXTRA ROTATION.
THE TENDENCY TO WANT TO THROW PROPERLY MIGHT BE JAPANESE.
SO DON'T PUT SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON "BACK-SPIN"
IF YOU GO TO MAJOR LEAGUES, INSTEAD OF A CLEAN BACK-SPIN, THE MAJORITY AIM FOR A "BREAKING BALL"

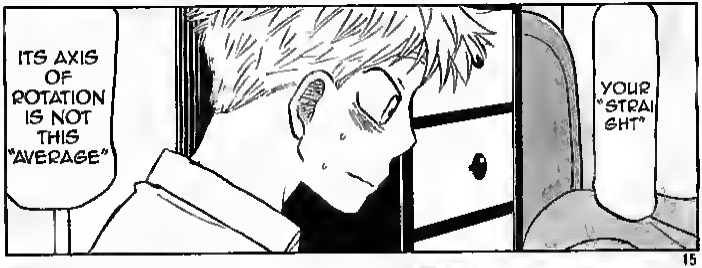
THE "FASTBALL" IS IMPORTANT FOR A PITCHER.
THE FASTEST BALL... OR, THE BALL THAT'S EASIEST TO PUT THE MOST POWER BEHIND, IS A BIG REASON, I THINK.
YOUR "STRAIGHT" DOESN'T HAVE "BACKSPIN", RIGHT? BUT
SUCH A MEANING IS THAT OF YOUR "FASTBALL"


BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO USE THAT TO WIN THE GAME.

INSTEAD OF COPYING ALL PITCHING BECAUSE IT IS ASSEMBLED

THE QUALITY OF THE PITCH IS THE SPEED - THE NUMBER OF ROTATIONS - WHICH IS DECIDED BY THE AXIS OF ROTATION.
I INTEND TO INCREASE TYPES OF PITCHES, SO INSTEAD OF YOUR "STRAIGHT" I WOULD RATHER PRACTICE A PITCH THAT IS NEAR TO BACKSPIN.


THE MEAS-URE
OF HOW MUCH IT DIFFERS FROM THE AVERAGE IS WHAT I THINK IS *MOST IMPORTANT* FOR PITCHING A TOUGH BALL.


YOUR "STRAI GHT"
ITS AXIS OF ROTATION IS NOT THIS "AVERAGE"

THE APPROXI-MATE OF BACK-SPIN
IT'LL ONLY BECOME HARMFUL.
WILL BE CLOSE TO "AVER-AGE"

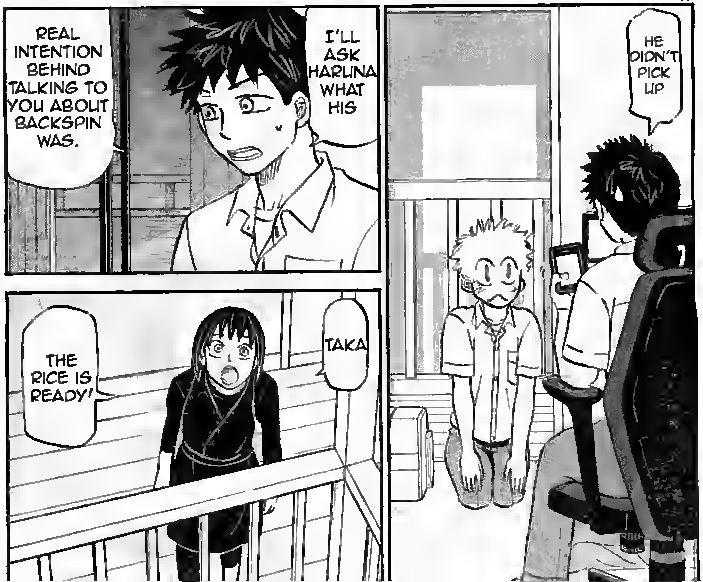
I WAS BEATEN
HARUNA AND THE SECOND BATTER ... WITH THE FIFTH PITCH... FAST-BALL...
BUT
TSK
BA
BA

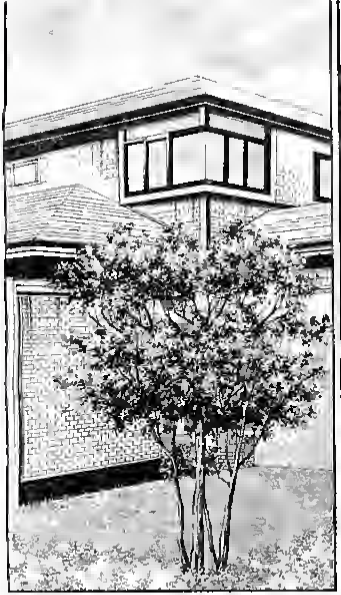
16

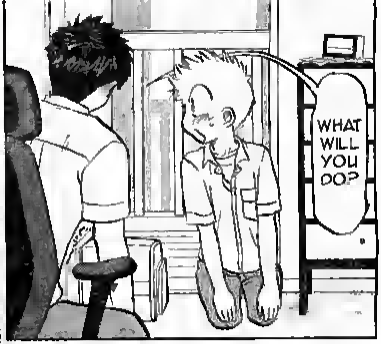
THIS IS JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT HARUNA SAID!
EVEN THOUGH OTHER GUYS CAN'T THROW A BALL WITH DIFFERENT ROTATION WHEN THEY PUT IN MUCH EFFORT!!

TSK
I'LL CALL HARUNA

17


REAL INTENTION BEHIND TALKING TO YOU ABOUT BACKSPIN WAS.
I'LL ASK HARUNA WHAT HIS
HE DIDN'T PICK UP
TAKA
THE RICE IS READY!

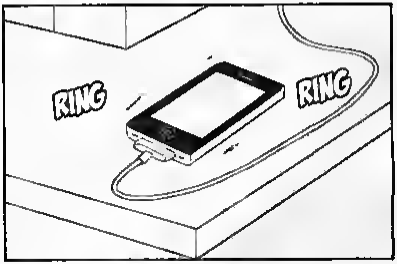



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

YEAH
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT?

18

HARUNA OR SOME-THING


RING
RING

TAKA~ PHONE!

HELLO
WHY DID YOU CALL ME?
WHY DID YOU
MENTION BACK-SPIN TO OUR PITCHER?
BECAUSE THAT FASTBALL IS WEIRD.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT BEING WEIRD?
DON'T GO AROUND PROMOTING BACK-SPIN.
BUT THAT PITCH JUST ISN'T GOOD.
IS THIS WHY YOU CALLED?
I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU HAD ANY REASON TO SAY THAT,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T SO I'M DONE.

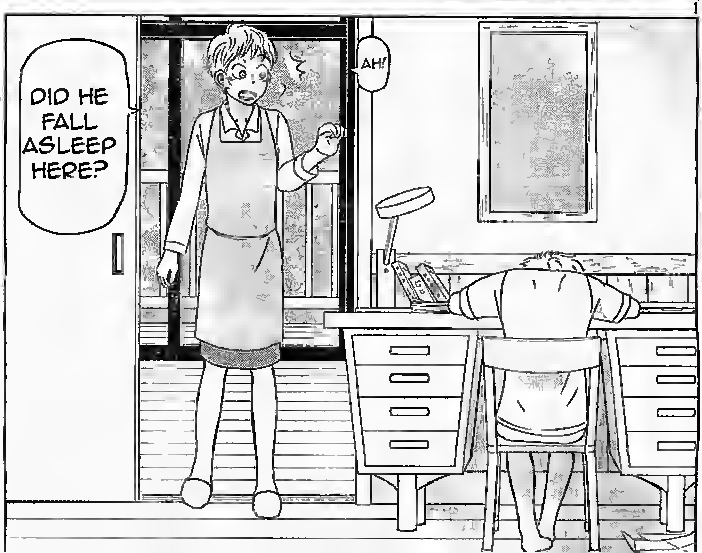
HIS POWER GETS DIS-PERSED,
HE COULD THROW MUCH FASTER THAN THAT.

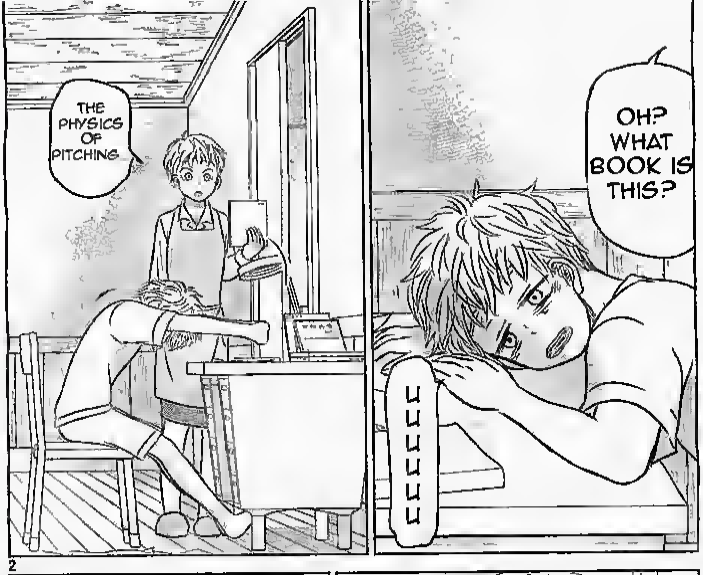
LET ME TALK TO HIM DIRECT-LY
OVER-PRO-TEC-TIVE IDIOT
AND ANYWAY, IT'S NOT YOU I WAS TALKING TO.

...YOU KNOW HE CAN THROW FASTER, TAKA, RIGHT?
EHAHA!
YOU'RE AWFUL

HE CAN'T DO 150 KMH
BUT HE CAN GET UP TO LATE 130S. I JUST SAID THAT BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE COULD BECOME AN INTERESTING PITCHER.

REN
REN
REN, IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP
おおきく振りかぶって


DID HE FALL ASLEEP HERE?
AH!

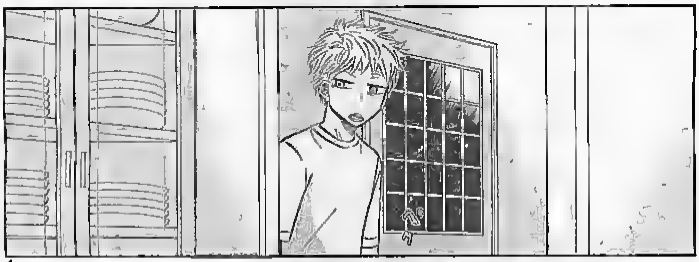

THE PHYSICS OF PITCHING
OH? WHAT BOOK IS THIS?
UUUUUU

ABE GAVE THEM TO ME YESTER-DAY
ANOTHER ONE
AND
WHAT ARE THESE BOOKS FOR?
UUUUUU

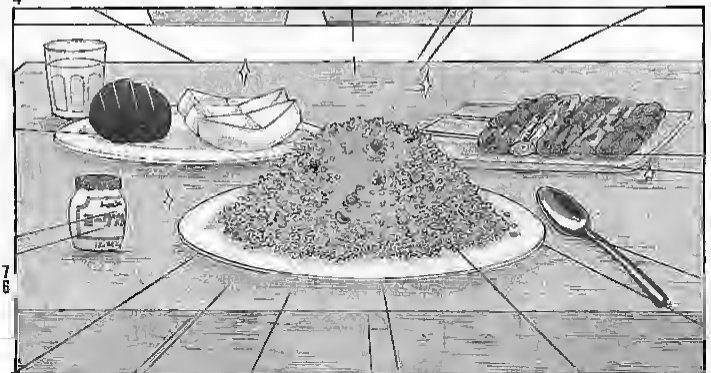
THAT'S AMAZ-ING
ABE MUST BE REALLY SMART
ABE
IS AMAZ-ING!
THAT HE CAN UNDERSTAND THIS
.....

STOP STUDYING FOR NOW
OK
COME EAT SOME-THING

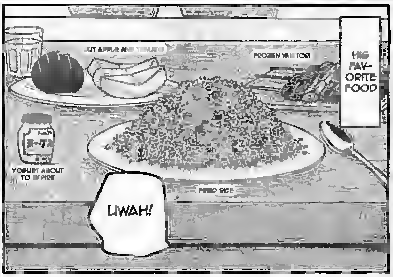
I'M REALLY NO GOOD
IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BOOK SAYS
ABE SAID IF I READ THAT BOOK, I'D UNDER-STAND
THAT THERE'S NO REASON TO BE FIXATED ON BACK-SPIN



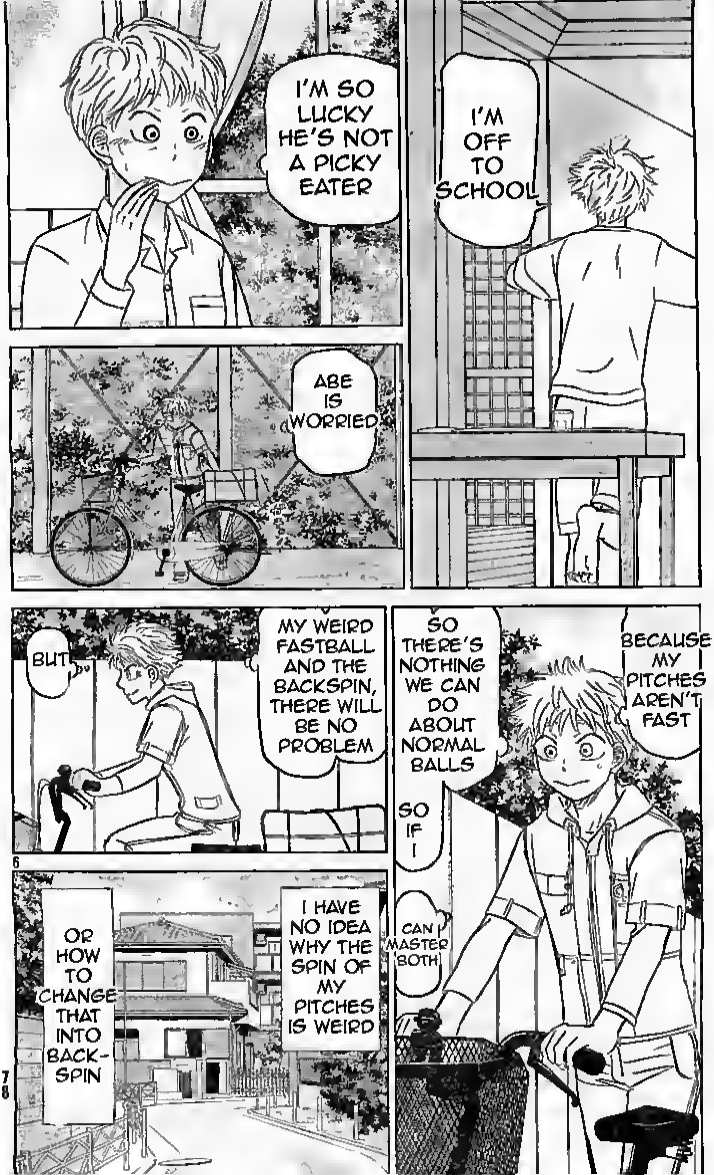
4

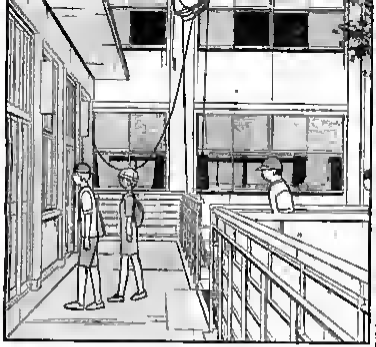


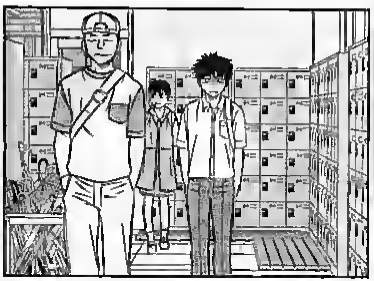
I MADE A LOT SO
EAT WELL!
UWAH!
UWAH!
GOOD MORN-ING
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!


HIS FAV-ORITE FOOD
YOGURT ABOUT TO BE RIDE
UWAH!

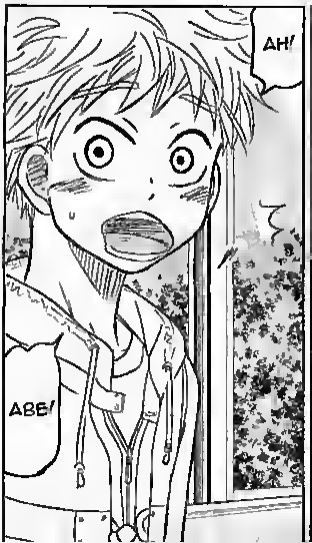
THANKS FOR THE ME L!

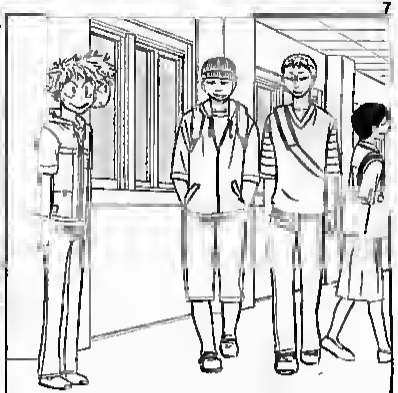

I'M SO LUCKY HE'S NOT A PICKY EATER
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL
ABE IS WORRIED
BUT...
MY WEIRD FASTBALL AND THE BACKSPIN, THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM
SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT NORMAL BALLS
BECAUSE MY PITCHES AREN'T FAST
SO IF I
CAN MASTER BOTH
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THE SPIN OF MY PITCHES IS WEIRD
OR HOW TO CHANGE THAT INTO BACK-SPIN





7





WHAT
UH
.....

UH
AND THE -UH- BOOK
EH
WAS A BIT
TOO
DIFFI- CULT
FOR ME
ABE TO TELL ME WHY
I WANT
MY PITCHES ARE WEIRD

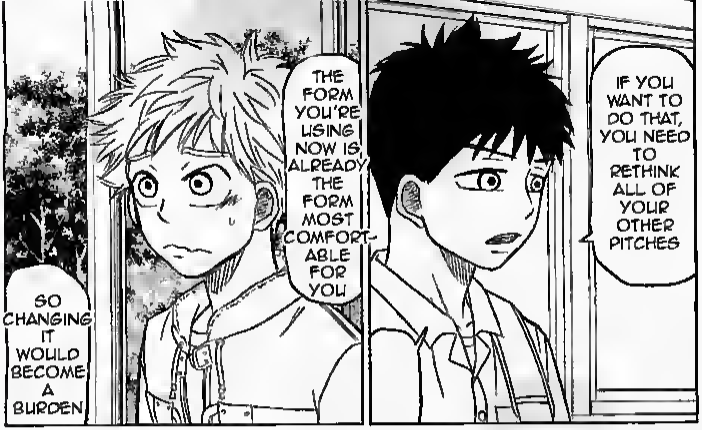
BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU KNOW?
OK

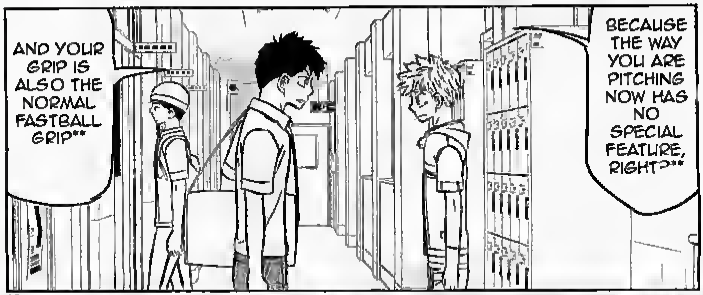
AND IF YOU CAN'T SEPARATE THE TWO?

THROW BOTH THE FAST-BALL AND THE BACK-SPIN!
SO THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO
UH
I WILL PRAC-TICE!

SO IT'S NOT POSSIBLE?
UH
UH

OR DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE FORM JUST FOR THE FASTBALL AND MAKE EVERYONE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO PITCH?
IF IT WERE JUST ARM OR WRIST MOVEMENT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE FORM IT JUST CAN'T HAPPEN

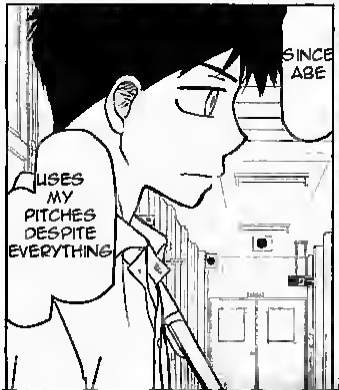

SO CHANGING IT WOULD BECOME A BURDEN
THE FORM YOU'RE USING NOW IS ALREADY THE FORM MOST COMFORTABLE FOR YOU
IF YOU WANT TO DO THAT, YOU NEED TO RETHINK ALL OF YOUR OTHER PITCHES



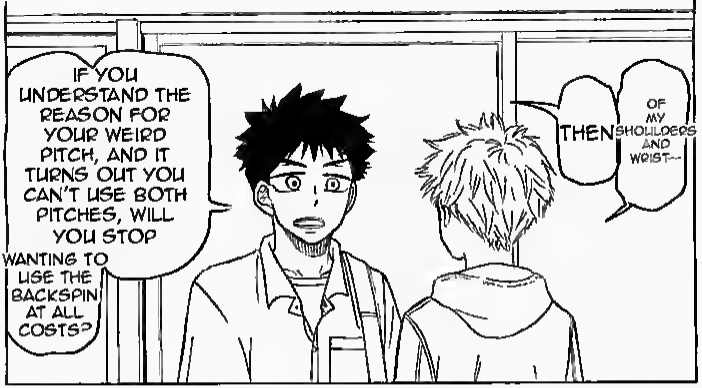
** MEANING IT PUTS VERY LITTLE STRESS ON HIS BODY

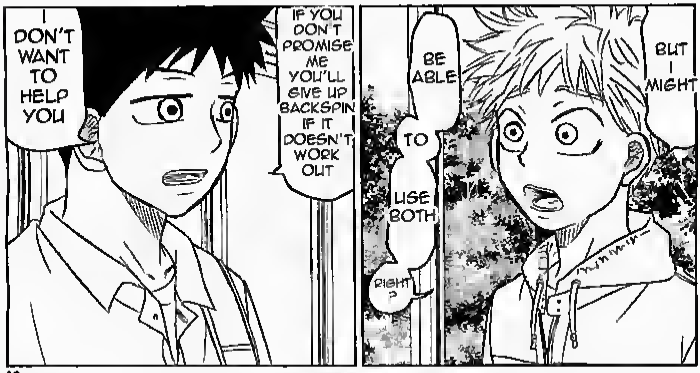
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
AND IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T FIX
WHY MY SPIN IS WEIRD
BUT THERE MUST BE A REASON
SO CAN YOU FIND ANY OTHER REASON TO DO THIS?

*** JAPANESE PROVERB MEANING ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING



LIKE DODGING BATTERS, GETTING HIT, STRIKE OUTS
THANKS TO YOU
EXPERIENCE MANY THINGS
BECAUSE YOU COULD USE MY NO-GOOD PITCHES LIKE


IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR YOUR WEIRD PITCH, AND IT TURNS OUT YOU CAN'T USE BOTH PITCHES, WILL YOU STOP WANTING TO USE THE BACKSPIN AT ALL COSTS?
THEN
OF MY SHOULDERS AND WRIST--


I DON'T WANT TO HELP YOU
IF YOU DON'T PROMISE ME YOU'LL GIVE UP BACKSPIN IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT
BE ABLE TO USE BOTH
RIGHT?
BUT I MIGHT

BECAUSE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IS FIND THE REASON FOR YOUR WEIRD FASTBALL, AND REGARDLESS OF THE REASON, START PRACTICING THE BACKSPIN ANYWAY
ELIE

WE ONLY HAVE ANOTHER TWO YEARS
IN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG ONCE IT'S JUST OVER
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!!
EUH
WOH
WA

I WILL TRAIN
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE ABLE TO THROW A FASTBALL!
BUT I WON'T LET IT GO WRONG!

AS IF THAT'S SOME-THING YOU CAN DECIDE!!

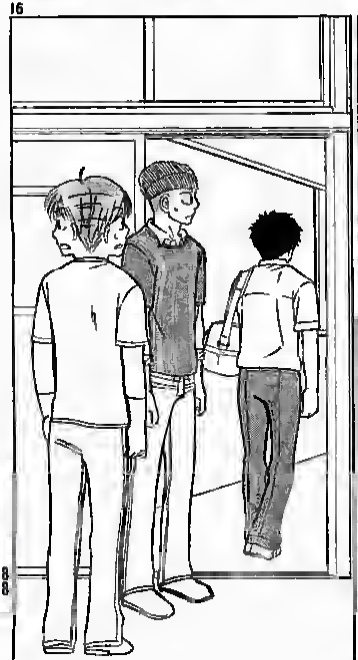
14

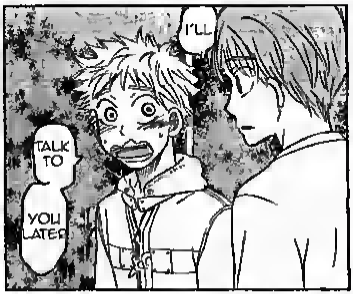
ARE THEY DOING
NOW WHAT
JEEZ

THEN
UG
ABE
UG
UG
UG
UHHHH

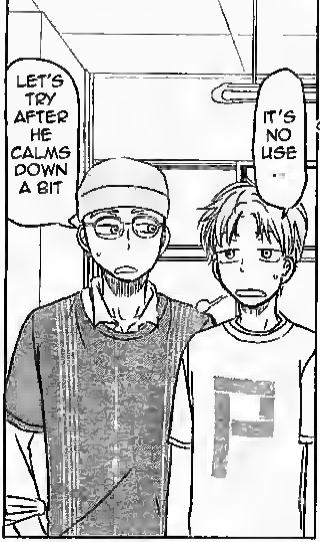
DON'T THINK SO
BE-CAUSE I
MY PITCH-ES
THINKS
CAN
WIN?

IT'S NOTHING!
AH! IT-
WHAT'S WRONG, MIHASHI?
WHAT ARE YOU ARGUING ABOUT?

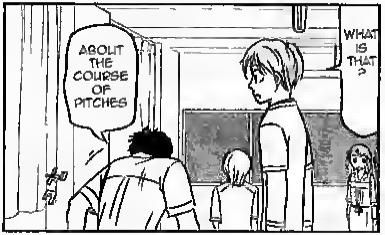



I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!

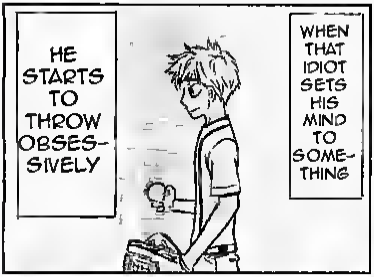
ABE, SEE YOU!
LATER!
YEAH


LET'S TRY AFTER HE CALMS DOWN A BIT
IT'S NO USE...

PITCH COURSE
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?


ABOUT THE COURSE OF PITCHES
WHAT IS THAT?

17

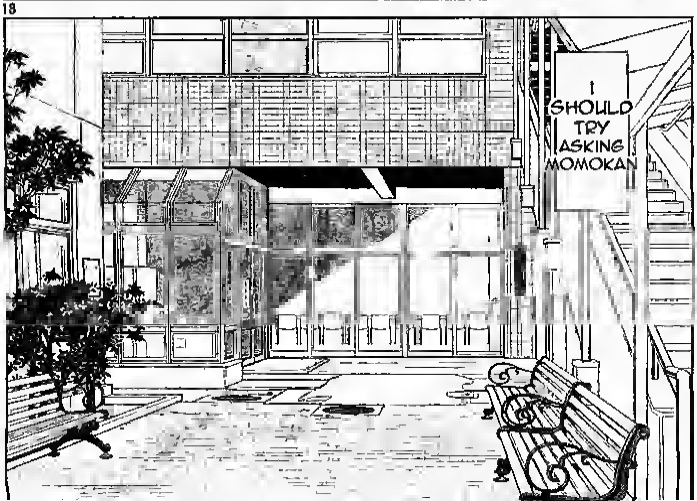

HE STARTS TO THROW OBSESSIVELY
WHEN THAT IDIOT SETS HIS MIND TO SOMETHING

SOMEONE WHO HASN'T HAD PROBLEMS BEFORE CAN'T TELL WHEN SOMETHING'S WRONG

BUT
HOW DOES THAT WEIRD PITCH WORK...

I LOOK AT THAT PITCH EVERY DAY
AND YET I CAN'T TELL
SHOULD WE BORROW A HIGH SPEED CAMERA AND TAPE IT?
WELL, WHAT I REALLY WANT IS A PITCHING COACH
LIKE MY DAD'S FRIEND OR TOMIGAWA OR HAYASHI WHO LOOKED AT HARUNA

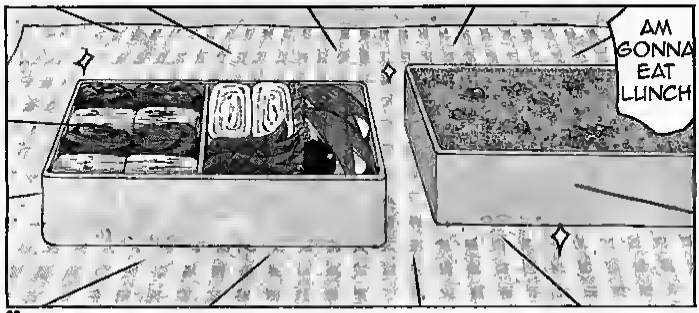
18


I SHOULD TRY ASKING MOMOKA!

HEY
HI
IS COMING?
AH
ABE
AH
OH
EH
WHAT WERE YOU TWO ON ABOUT THIS MORNING?
YEAH, BUT

ABE GOT WORRIED
PRACTICE
BACKSPIN
HARUNA SAID

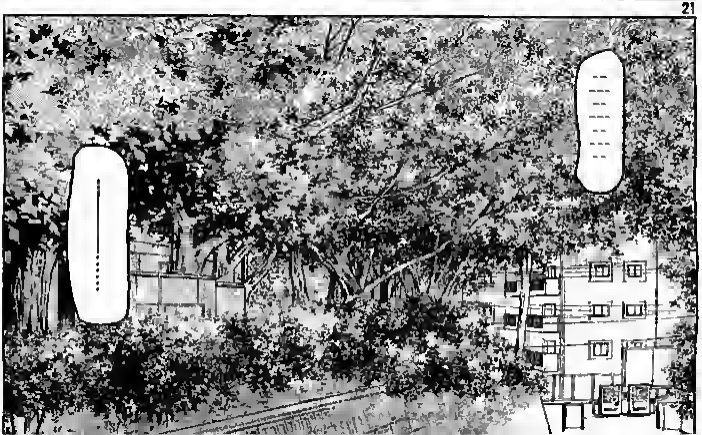
I AM
NOT BEING TRUST-ED
SO I


AM GONNA EAT LUNCH

WOW
IT LOOKS TASTY!
WELL
A MIND DOESN'T WORK WHEN ONE'S HUNGRY SO
LET'S EAT
YES

YEAH
LET'S EAT!
ABE AND MIHASHI
いただきます
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING AN ARGUMENT
LOOKS TASTY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ゴゴゴゴ

YES, I WAS GOING TO HAVE LUNCH
WHAT HAP-PENED?
KYLA
カス
ARE YOU ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK?
HELLO IT'S ABE

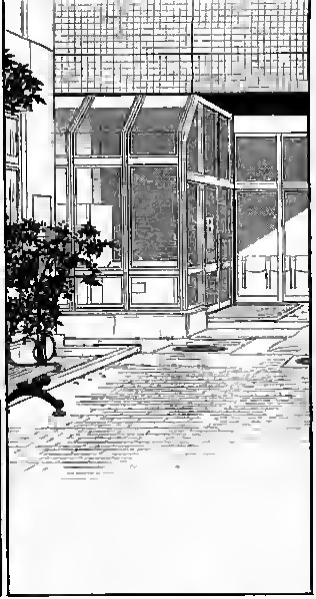

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

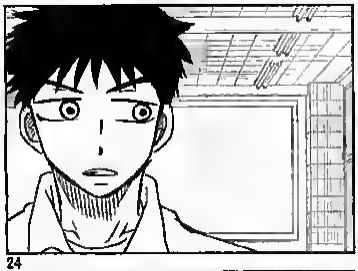
IS THERE A WAY WE CAN HAVE MIHASHI OBSERVED WITHOUT HIM NOTICING?
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I SEE
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS
.....
THAT'S STRANGE TO ASK

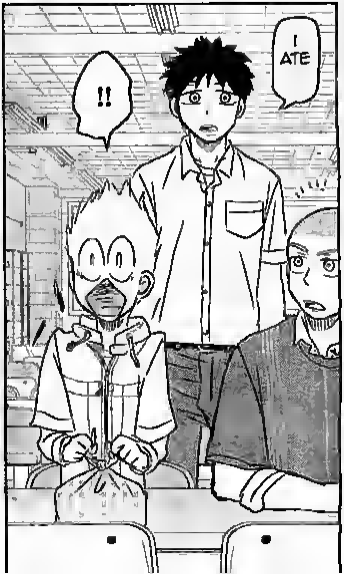
22

I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE BUT,
I THINK IT'S DIFFICULT TO WIN MANY GAMES WITH MIHASHI AS HE IS NOW
YEAH
BECAUSE WE SEE HIM EVERY DAY AND WE CAN'T TELL

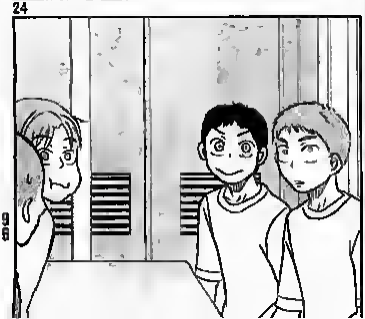
I CAN ALREADY THINK OF A PITCHING COACH, I'LL ASK HIM
BUT
YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS SECRET FROM MIHASHI, SO TALK PROPERLY WITH HIM ABOUT IT
YES
YOU'RE GOING FOR THE SAME GOAL, SO YOU HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER
YOU NEED TO FIND A COMPROMISE THAT WILL SATISFY BOTH OF YOU
23
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO TALK TO MIHASHI SO IF IT GETS COMPLICATED
CALL ME AGAIN
YES







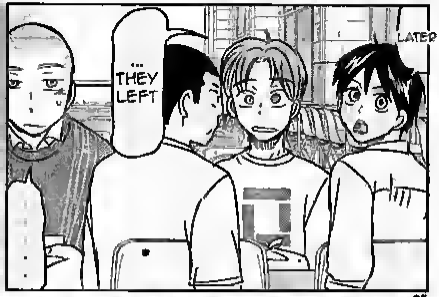
24



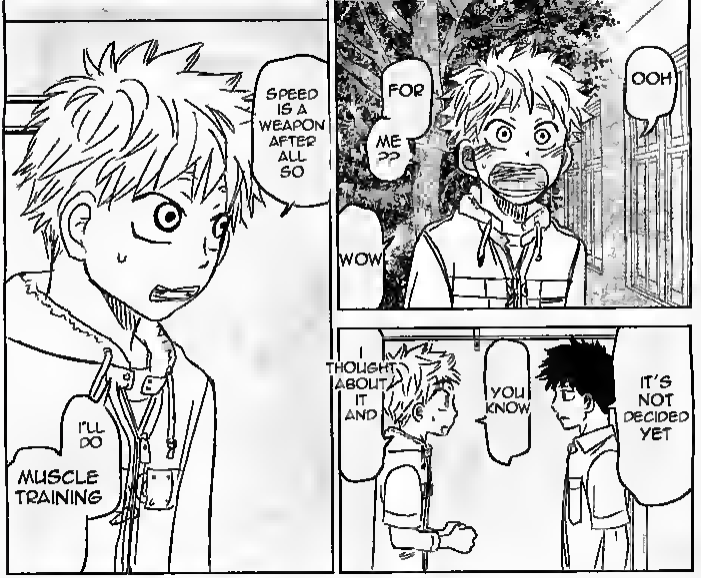
SEE
YOU LATER!

LET'S GO
YOU'RE DONE, RIGHT?

I TRIED ASKING OMOKAN AND SHE SAID SHE CAN GET YOU A PITCHING COACH


LATER
...THEY LEFT

NAH
IT'S SOMETHING THEY DON'T WANT US TO HEAR?


SPEED IS A WEAPON AFTER ALL SO
I'LL DO MUSCLE TRAINING
WOW
FOR ME??
OOH
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND
YOU KNOW
IT'S NOT DECIDED YET

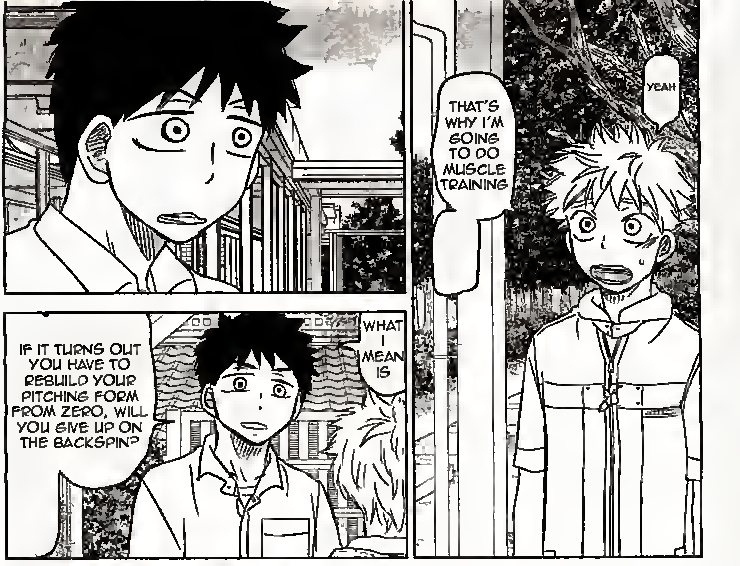
I CAN'T THROW FASTBALLS LIKE HARUNA
THAT'S WHY
WELL, YEAH
YOU'D BE OKAY WITH GETTING SPEED, TOO, RIGHT?

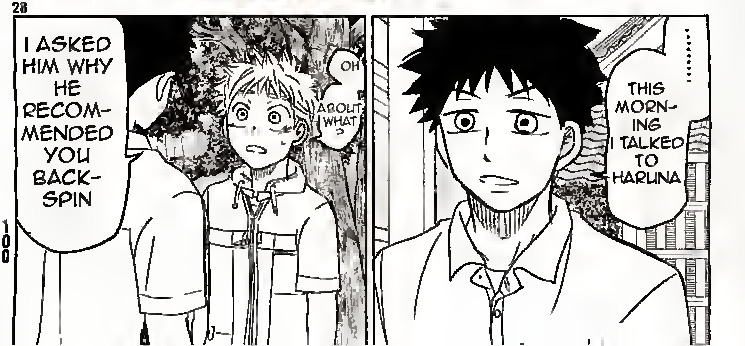
IT'LL BE NO GOOD
IF I LOSE THE FASTBALL

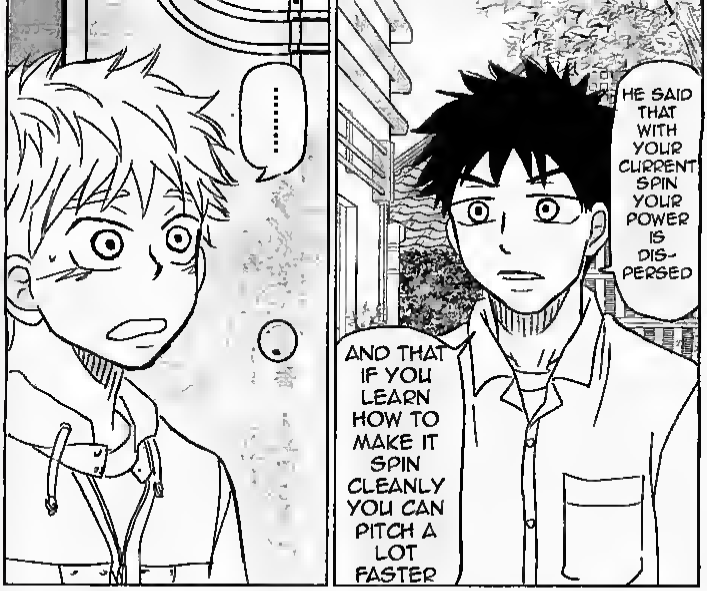
WELL
UH
SPEED IS A WEAPON
AND
PITCH VARIETY IS A WEAPON
TOO
?
THERE'S A GAP IN YOUR SPEECH
WAIT, I'M NOT FOLLOWING
YOU JUST EXPLAIN AGAIN ?
CAN GAP ?
A

YES
THAT
YOU MEAN, THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY? THAT WE CAN DO A LOT WITH THE PITCHING ORDER
YEAH

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO MAKE SURE FIRST
A PITCHING COACH REALLY COMES,
IF

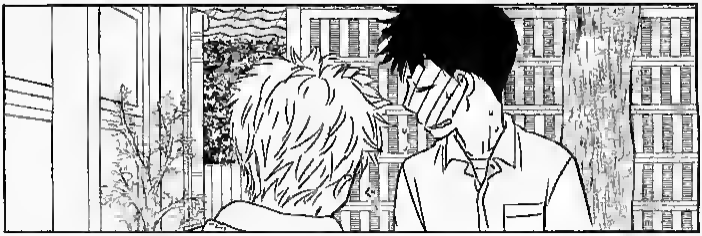

YEAH
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO DO MUSCLE TRAINING
WHAT I MEAN IS
IF IT TURNS OUT YOU HAVE TO REBUILD YOUR PITCHING FORM FROM ZERO, WILL YOU GIVE UP ON THE BACKSPIN?
YES
IF I GET HURT IT'S THE END


THIS MORN-ING I TALKED TO HARUNA
OH ABOUT WHAT?
I ASKED HIM WHY HE RECOM-MENDED YOU BACK-SPIN

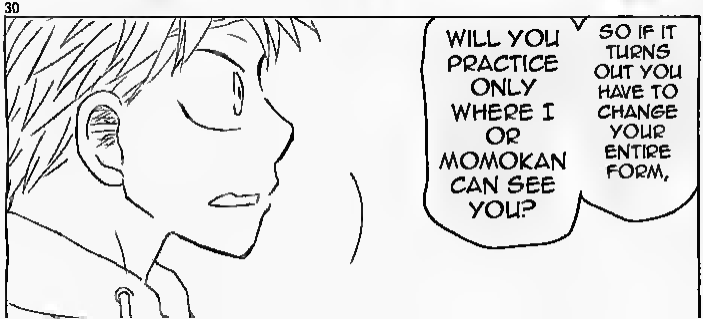

HE SAID THAT WITH YOUR CURRENT SPIN YOUR POWER IS DIS-PERSED
AND THAT IF YOU LEARN HOW TO MAKE IT SPIN CLEANLY YOU CAN PITCH A LOT FASTER
.....

BEING TOLD THIS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL GIVE UP ON THE BACKSPIN, IS THERE?
.....

BUT YOU ARE THE ONE
WHO CARES ABOUT ME THE MOST



30

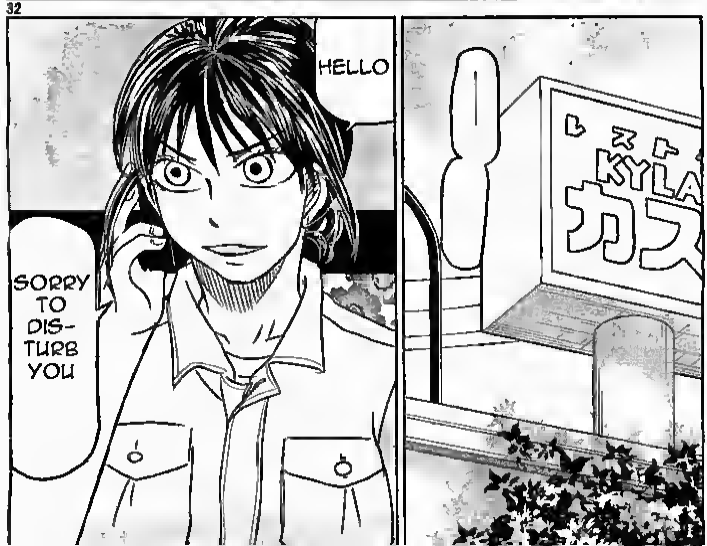

SO IF IT TURNS OUT YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE FORM,
WILL YOU PRACTICE ONLY WHERE I OR MOMOKAN CAN SEE YOU?

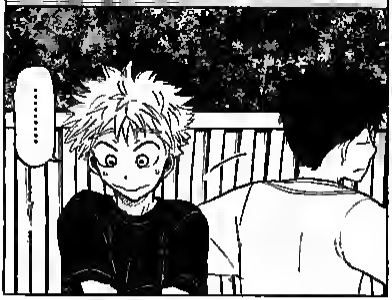
YOU'RE OKAY
WITH THE BACK-SPIN ??
PLEASE DON'T THINK I DON'T TRUST YOU!
THAT'S WHAT I'M SCARED ABOUT
PEOPLE GET INJURED BECAUSE THEY DO SOMETHING WRONG WITHOUT KNOWING!

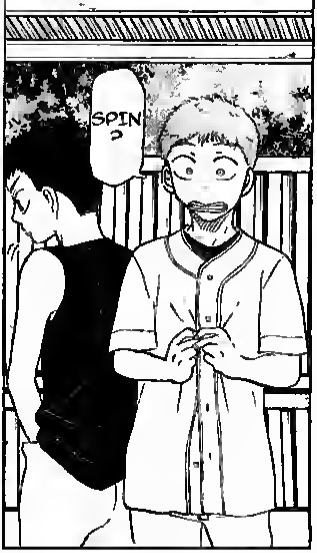
31

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL IS SINGLE ELIMINA-TION
I THINK WE CAN GO PRETTY FAST WE ARE RIGHT NOW, BUT
CAN'T KEEP BEING AS THEY ARE NOW AS WELL
I THINK YOUR PITCH-ES

FARTHER
HIGHER
TO
GO


HELLO
SORRY
TO
DIS-
TURB
YOU
ガス


……


SPIN
?

IS THE BACK-SPIN REALY SO CRUCIAL?

A FASTER AND STRAIGHTER PITCH
IT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET

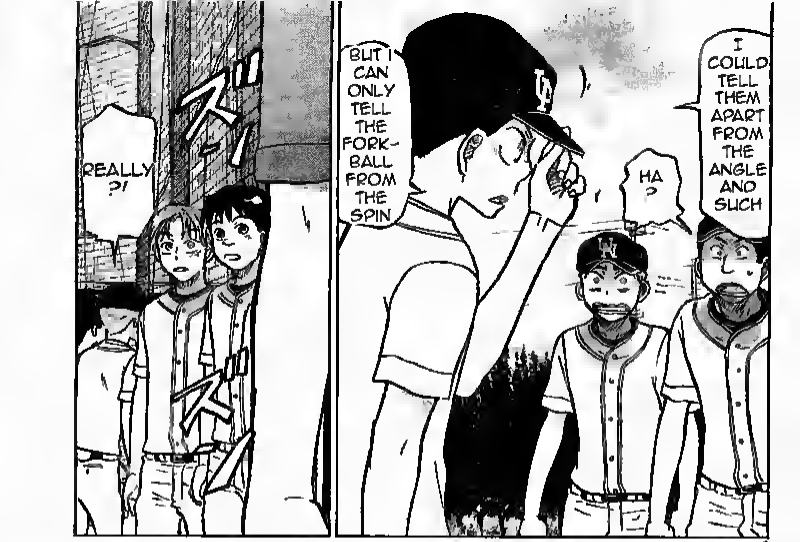
THAT IS?
あおきべ振りかぶって

I SEE
CLICK

I CAN'T SEE WHY HE'S SLOW
CAN ANY-ONE MAKE IT OUT?
UH
UM
I-
MIHASHI IS REALLY PARTICU-LAR ABOUT SPEED
BUT, YOU KNOW
UM
EH
I DON'T MEAN TO BLAME YOU

2

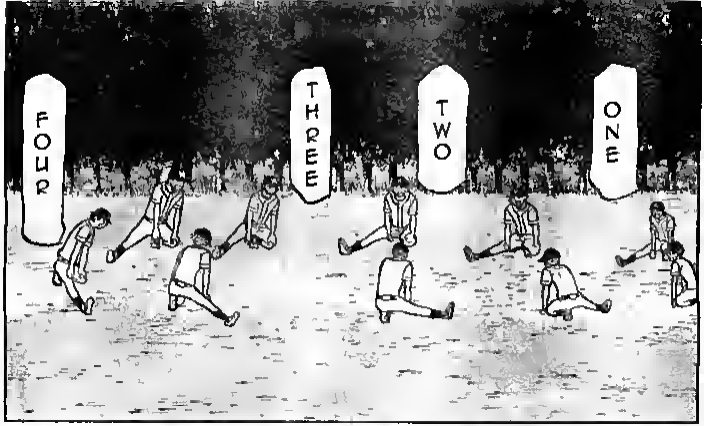
WHAT?
EH
WHEN YOU WERE CATCHING, DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING? YOU SAID THAT YOU COULD SEE WHAT TYPE OF BREAKING BALL IT WAS WHEN MIHASHI THREW IT.
TAJIMA

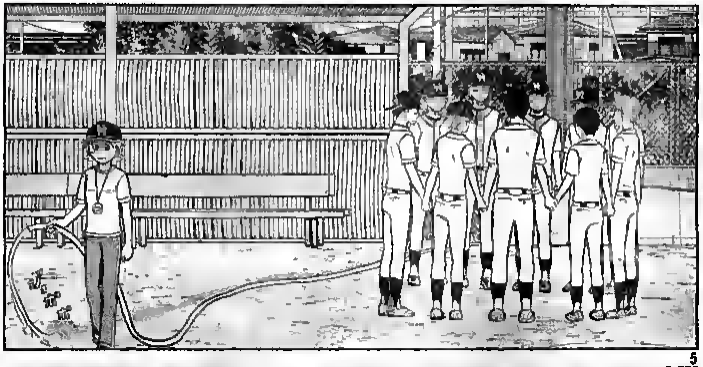


おおきく振りかぶって

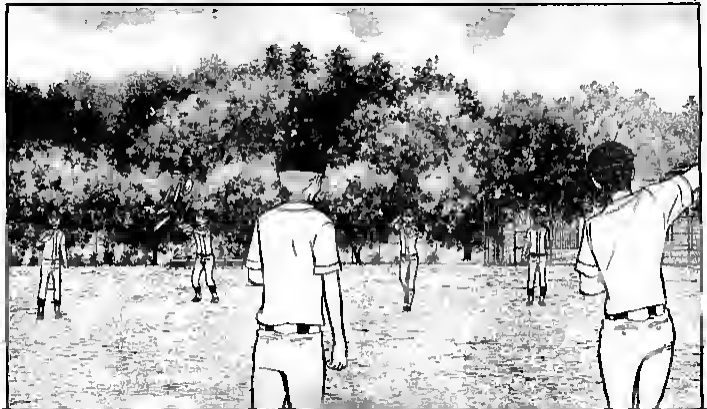
ひぐちアサ 第101話「まうすぐ 3」

4

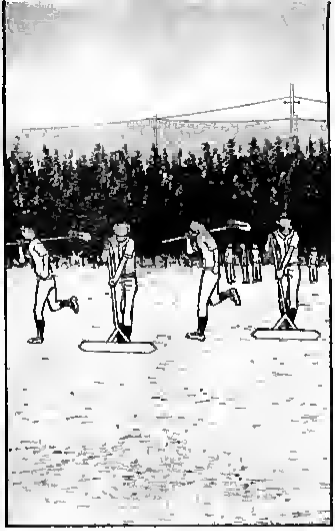


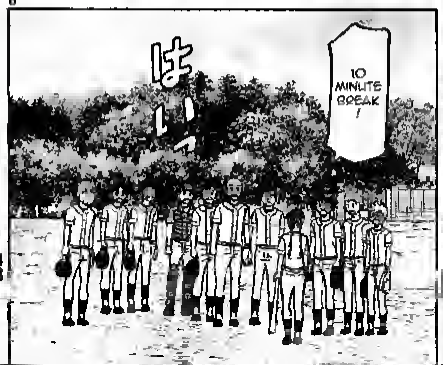


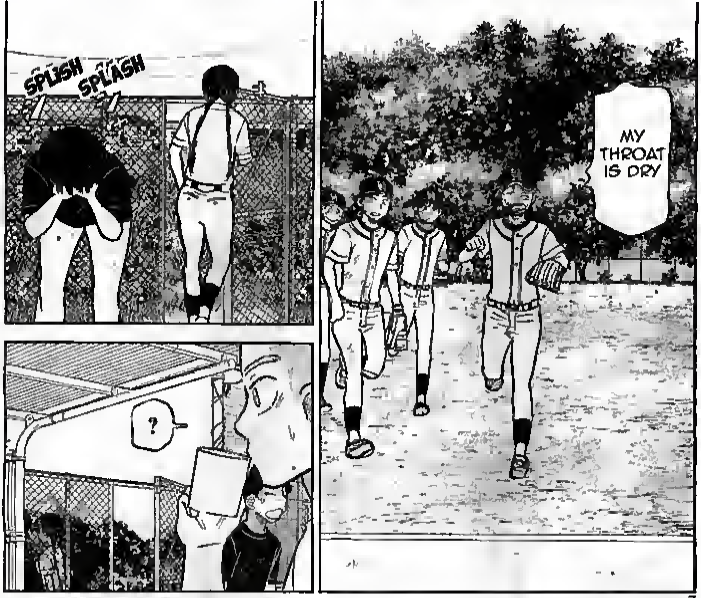
5



OK!
COME IN!

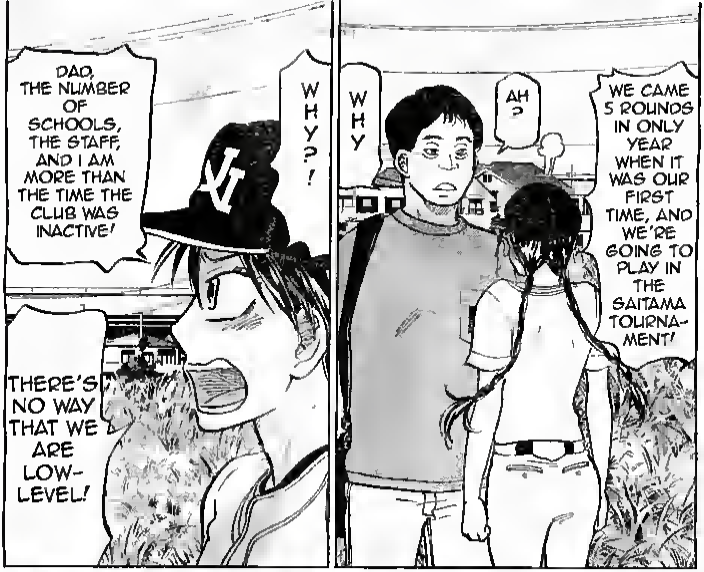



はい!
10 MINUTE BREAK!


SPLISH
SPLASH
?
MY THROAT IS DRY

I LEFT WORK EARLY
HOW ABOUT IT? OUR TEAM
OH? HE'S MORE INTO IT THAN I THOUGHT
YOU'RE A LITTLE EARLY
AREN'T YOU?

I'LL DO IT
YES YES
YOU'LL DO IT, RIGHT? RIGHT?
HM……
SO
SAY SOME-THING
...EVEN ON SELF-RELFEC-TION, THE TEAM IS PROBABLY GOOD.
WHAT REFLEC-TION?
SOME-THING?


DAD, THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, THE STAFF, AND I AM MORE THAN THE TIME THE CLUB WAS INACTIVE!
WHY?!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE ARE LOW-LEVEL!
WHY
AH?
WE CAME 5 ROUNDS IN ONLY YEAR WHEN IT WAS OUR FIRST TIME, AND WE'RE GOING TO PLAY IN THE SAITAMA TOURNAMENT!

TH-
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
PREFECTURES WOULDBE RANKED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THEY HAVE
IF WHO'S BETTER IS DETER-MINED BY NUMBER

9

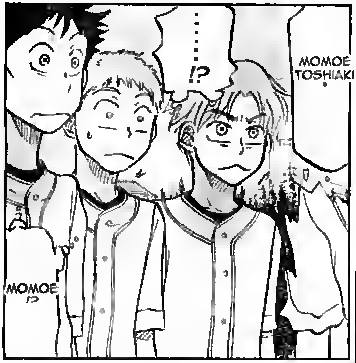
IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS, I'LL GO HOME

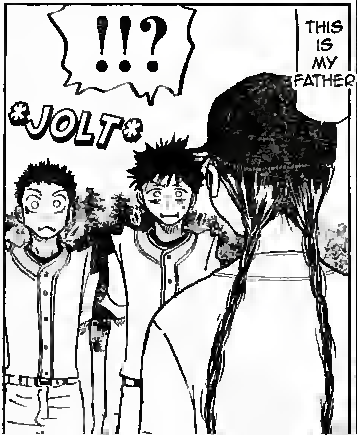
I'D LIKE TO INTRO-DUCE YOU TO EVERY-ONE
I AM THE COACH, AS SUCH, I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME RESPECT.
OK
-bow-
I'M SORRY
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COACH AND PLAYERS IS IMPORTANT.....
AND DIFFICULT.
AND DELICATE
YOU GET IT, RIGHT?
ALSO DAD
IF I'M WITH THE PLAYERS

10 *-SAN IS A RESPECTFUL HONORIFIC (HE'S TROLLING HER)

11

*FAMILY NAMES COME FIRST IN JAPAN

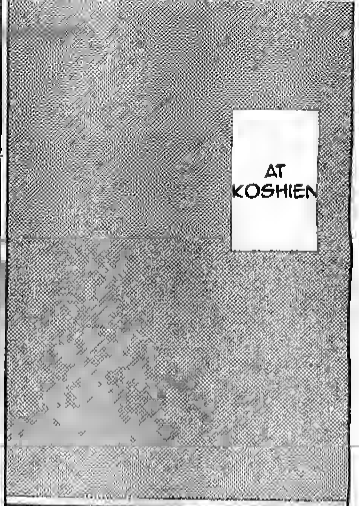




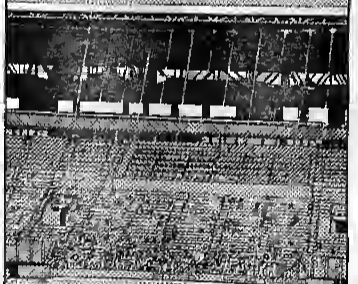
HE'S A GRADUATE OF SAITOKU HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO
SAITOKU
.....
HE PITCHED AT KOSHIEN
!!!

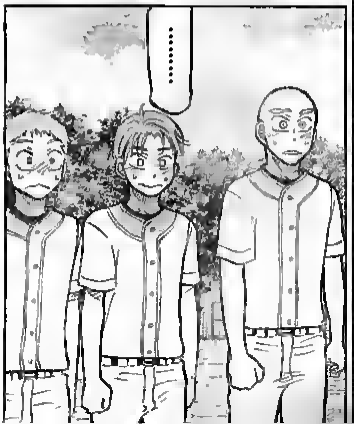
PITCH-ER
THERE

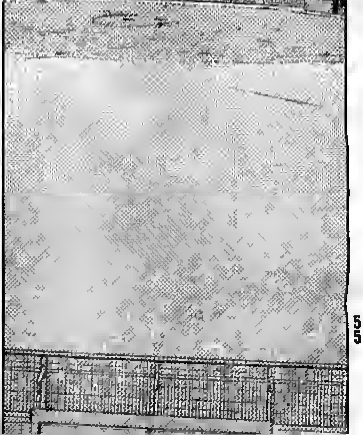
HE'S A PITCHER
BUT HE HAS EXPERIENCE IN BASE RUNNING, BATTING, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN


AT KOSHIEN

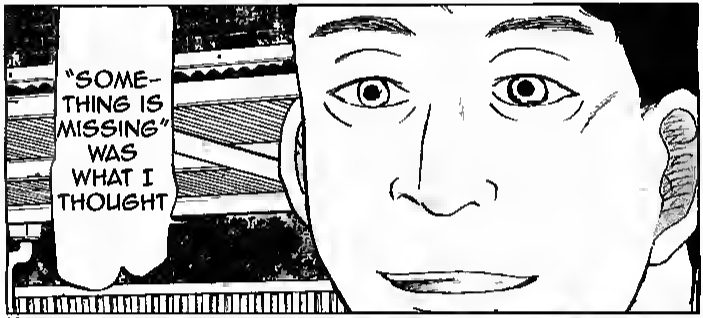
YEAH
DO YOU WANT TO SAY A WORD
O K




.....



I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU ALL FROM COACH, BUT TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU PLAY.
YOU ARE DOING BETTER THAN I EXPECTED
HOW-EVER


"SOME-THING IS MISSING" WAS WHAT I THOUGHT

I PLAYED HIGH SCHOOL BASE-BALL OVER 30 YEARS AGO
COM-PARED TO TODAY
TRAINING FOR BASE-BALL TEAMS WAS MUCH TOUGHER

IN THIS TEAM THERE IS NO COMPETITION TO BECOME REGULARS

AND MAYBE IT'S BE-CAUSE
I'M COMPAR-ING YOU TO THOSE DAYS THAT I FEEL SOME-THING IS MISSING

15

A TEAM OF SIX MONTH S WOULD BE MISS-ING SOME-THING
AND YOU COULD SAY IT'S NATU-RAL THAT

SO IT MAY BE THAT KIND OF THING

I WAS TAUGHT IN A SPAR-TAN WAY
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW I WILL COACH

57

I'LL TEACH YOU EVERY-THING I CAN
THAT'S ALL!
I WILL LISTEN TO ALL YOUR PROB-LEMS AS COACH

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
...
TH-

YES!

EVERYONE EXCEPT MIHASHI GO TO T-BATTING PRACTICE!

ME
M-
WHICH OF YOU IS MIHASHI?

SO YOU WANT TO PITCH A FAST-BALL?

YES!
ABE?

Y-
ES

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU WANT TO PITCH A FAST-BALL SO MUCH
IF YOU CAN PITCH A FAST-BALL, IT POSITIVE-LY INFLU-ENCES YOUR OTHER PITCHES
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT HE PITCHES A WEIRD FAST-BALL?
YES
.....

18

THE COURSE IS THAT OF A FAST-BALL
BUT IT LACKS BACK-SPIN
FIRST, I NEED TO TAKE A LOOK. I'LL BORROW A HELMET
YES!
HOW MANY PITCHES WILL HE THROW TODAY?
30

OK LET'S GO

IF HE SEES IT WON'T HE UNDER-STAND IT'S POINT-LESS?

DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH OUT OF IT

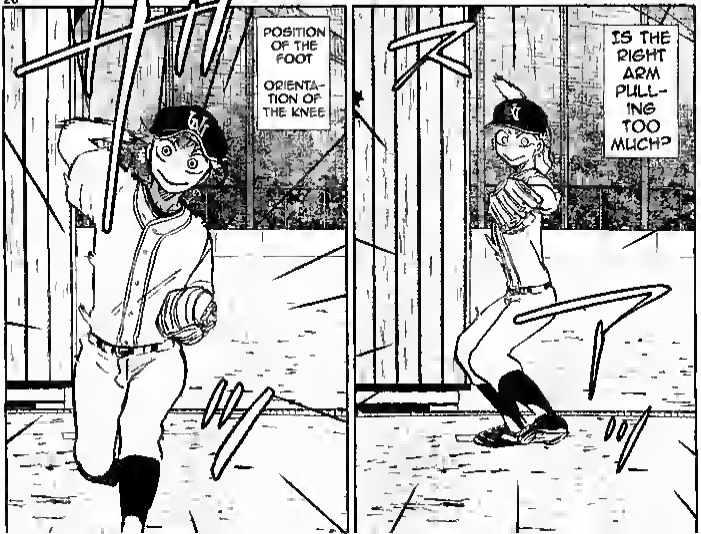
19

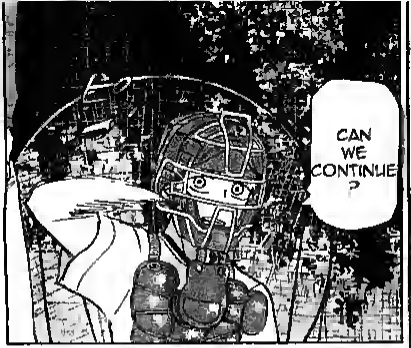
SHIFTS

BALL ONE!

HIS GRIP ON THE BALL
HE HAS A SOME-WHAT SLOW FORM

20


POSITION OF THE FOOT
ORIENTA-TION OF THE KNEE
IS THE RIGHT ARM PULL-ING TOO MUCH?

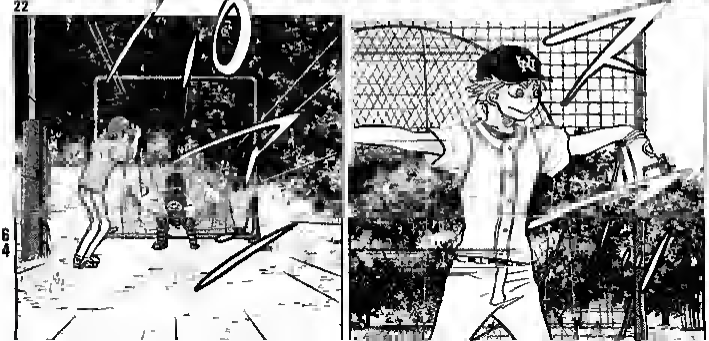

CAN WE CONTINUE ?

I'VE SEEN THIS FAST-BALL BEFORE

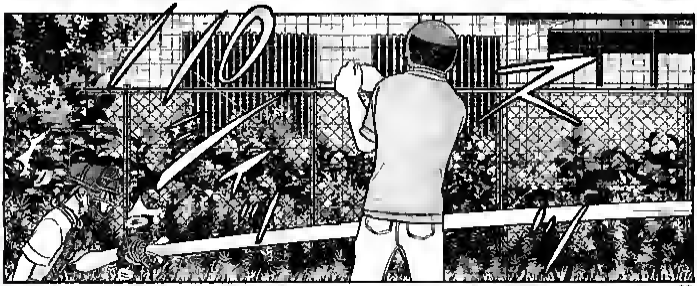
LET'S TAKE IT EASY
YEAH

BALL TWO !

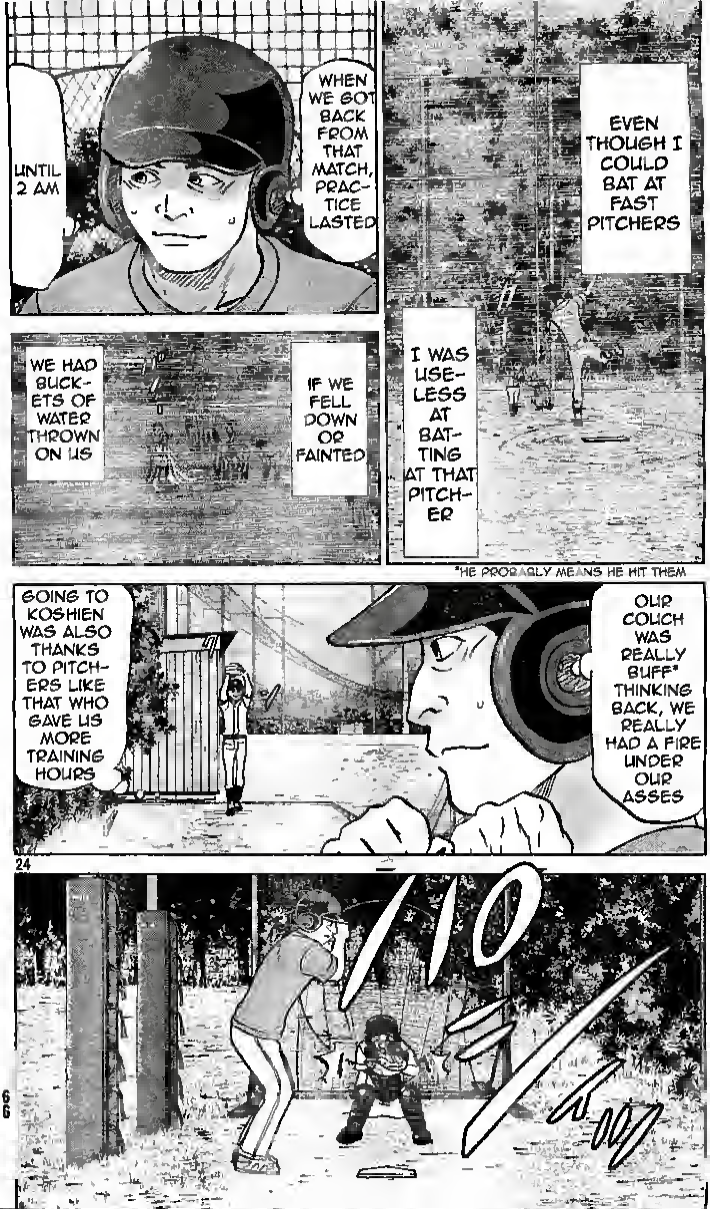
22


10

THAT'S RIGHT
IT WAS EXACTLY THIS PITCH
AT THE PRACTICE MATCH AGAINST ICHI-NOKUCHI
THAT WAS A THIN, SMALL PITCHER TOO
THE FORM MAKES IT LOOK LIKE HE'S PUTTING STENGTH INTO IT, BUT THEN IT'S NOT FAST AT ALL

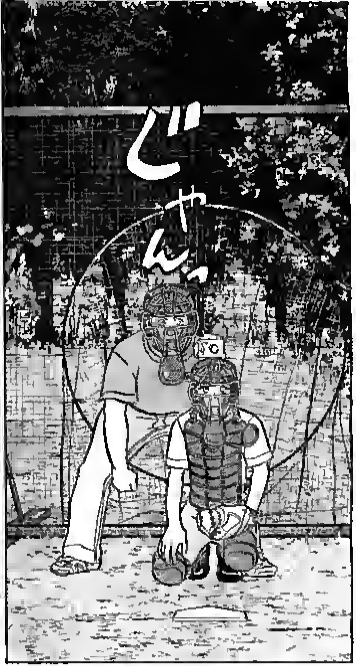


IT WAS A BALL WITH THAT STRANGE FEELING OF RISING LIKE THIS
IT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES!

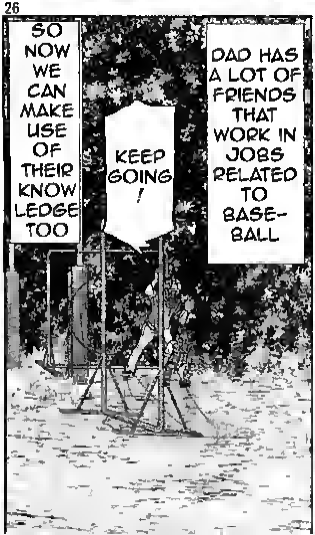

UNTIL 2 AM
WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM THAT MATCH, PRACTICE LASTED
EVEN THOUGH I COULD BAT AT FAST PITCHERS
I WAS USELESS AT BATTING AT THAT PITCHER
IF WE FELL DOWN OR FAINTED
WE HAD BUCKETS OF WATER THROWN ON US
*HE PROBABLY MEANS HE HIT THEM
GOING TO KOSHIEN WAS ALSO THANKS TO PITCHERS LIKE THAT WHO GAVE US MORE TRAINING HOURS
OUR COUCH WAS REALLY BUFF* THINKING BACK, WE REALLY HAD A FIRE UNDER OUR ASSES
110

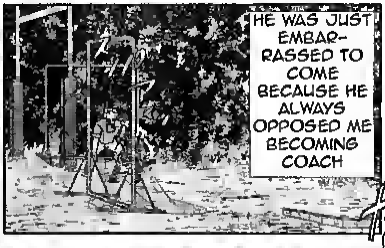
GIVE ME THE MASK I'LL WATCH FROM THE FRONT
YES!
MIHA-SHI!
YES
25
THROW THIS!

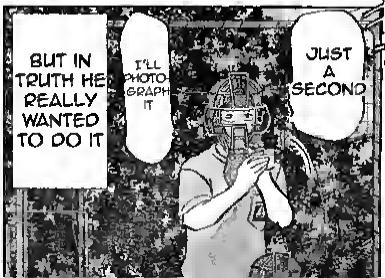
カキィ
O-KAY LE-T'S GO


じゃ

UN
DIDN'T HE GET INTO IT


SO NOW WE CAN MAKE USE OF THEIR KNOW LEDGE TOO
KEEP GOING!
DAD HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS THAT WORK IN JOBS RELATED TO BASE-BALL

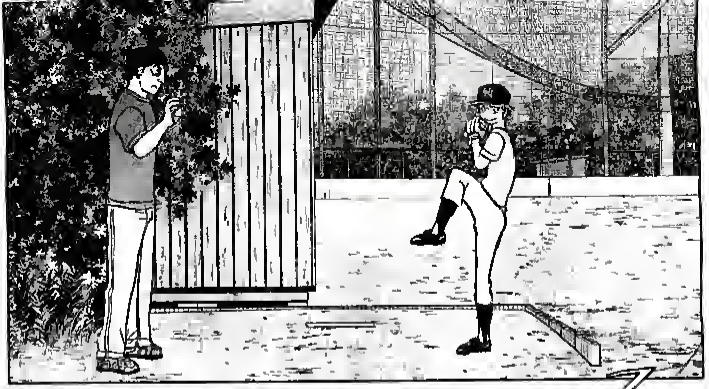

HE WAS JUST EMBAR-RASSED TO COME BECAUSE HE ALWAYS OPPOSED ME BECOMING COACH


JUST A SECOND
I'LL PHOTO-GRAPH IT
BUT IN TRUTH HE REALLY WANTED TO DO IT

WITH JUST MY COACHING WE COULD ONLY GO SO FAR
I'M HAPPY I COULD INVOLVE HIM

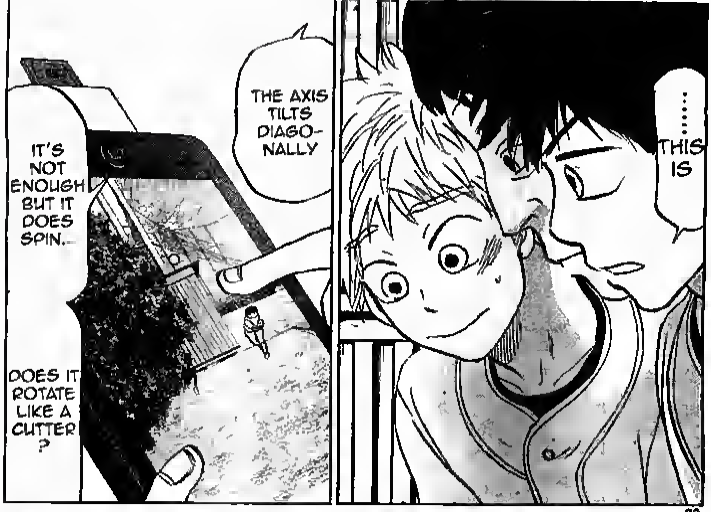
27

LAST BALL!

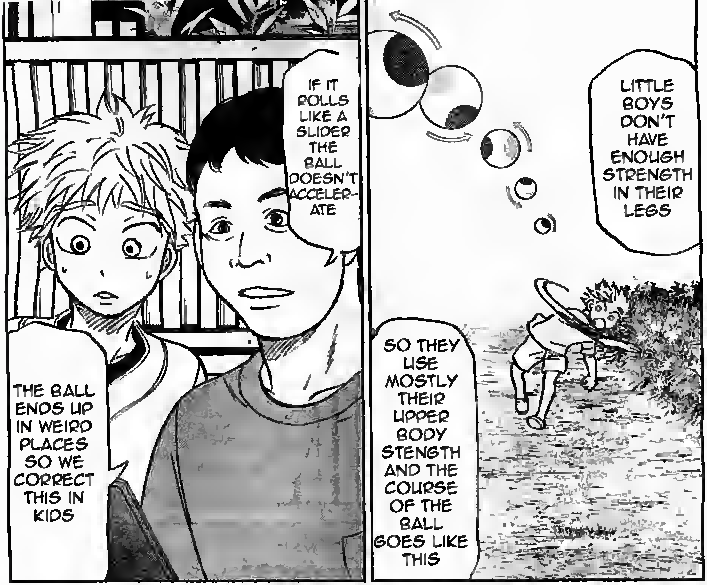


28

LOOKING FROM THE FRONT
OK.
GO DRINK SOME-THING
AH
YES!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK
AMAZING-ALL SET
LET'S SIT ON THE BENCH


THE AXIS TILTS DIAGONALLY
IT'S NOT ENOUGH BUT IT DOES SPIN.
DOES IT ROTATE LIKE A CUTTER?
.....THIS IS

THERE ARE MANY PITCHERS IN LITTLE LEAGUE THAT CAN THROW THIS PITCH
I WONDER IF IT'S THAT KIND OF NATURAL SLIDER
BUT BECAUSE OF THE CURVE TO IT
I WAS YOUR COACH'S COACH IN LITTLE LEAGUE
IS THAT SO
THE COACH OF OUR COACH...


IF IT ROLLS LIKE A SLIDER THE BALL DOESN'T ACCELER-ATE
THE BALL ENDS UP IN WEIRD PLACES SO WE CORRECT THIS IN KIDS
LITTLE BOYS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH IN THEIR LEGS
SO THEY USE MOSTLY THEIR UPPER BODY STENGTH AND THE COURSE OF THE BALL GOES LIKE THIS

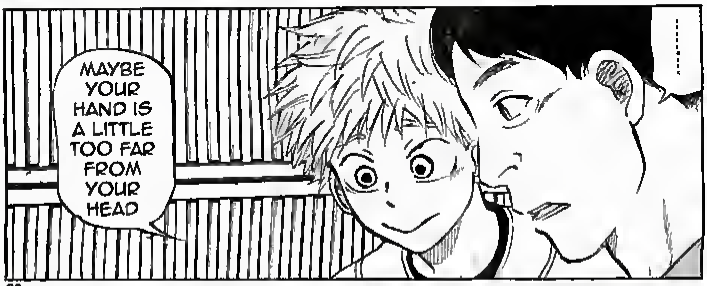
RIGHT ?
I WAS ALSO LIKE THAT AND THEY FIXED IT
TO HIT THE BALL TO SECOND BASE

I SEE
IS WHAT ...
I THINK
YES ...
Y ...
BUT MIHASHI WAS NEVER CORRECTE ABOUT THIS AS A KID

WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING THE KNUCKLE CURVEBALL FOR THE PITCHES THAT FALL
IF YOU REFINED IT, YOU COULD TURN IT INTO A VERTICAL SLIDER
BUT THIS SPIN IS ALSO YOUR NATURAL ONE
VER-TI-CAL SLI-DER

IT OFTEN LOOKS LIKE IT WILL MEET BUT THEN FALLS INSTEAD
CONTROL DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK ON IT
THAT'S ANOTHER COMPLICATED PITCH YOU HAVE THERE
YOU HAVE THERE
EH
AH
UH
IS THIS SOMETHING HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
I SEE

YOU SEEM TO BE USING YOUR LOWER AND UPPER BODY STRENGTH ALREADY
HOWEVER
THEY CORRECT KIDS WHO THROW LIKE THIS
ANYWAY


MAYBE YOUR HAND IS A LITTLE TOO FAR FROM YOUR HEAD
.....

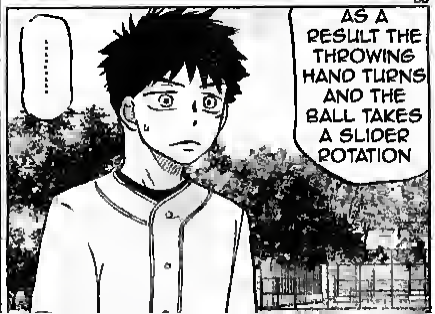
WAIST ROTATION ?
MAYBE IT'S THE LATERAL ROTATION OF THE WAIST
HIS HAND ?

WHEN YOU DO THIS
BUT THIS
IT MAY HAVE CAUSED A LATERAL ROTATION

YOU DO THIS DIAGONAL MOVEMENT
TO SUCCESSFULLY CONVEY THE POWER OF THE LOWER BODY
WHERE THE TWIST IS CORRECT

.....
fidget
fidget

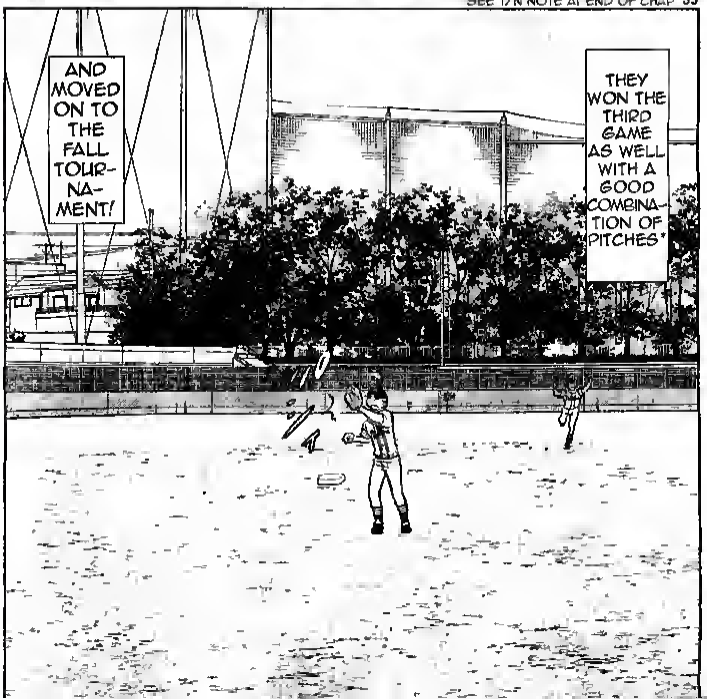
THE HAND GOES IN A ROUND-ABOUT WAY FAR FROM THE HEAD
BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE

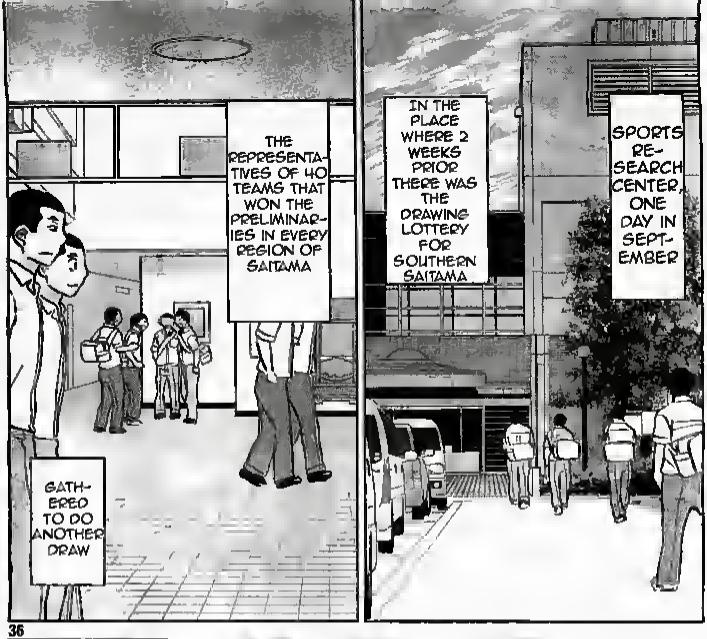

.....
AS A RESULT THE THROWING HAND TURNS AND THE BALL TAKES A SLIDER ROTATION

SO COOL
NOW I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE BATTERS
DO ALL THE PITCHERS AT SAITOKU GET THIS KIND OF TRAINING?
SINCE I CAN'T COME EVERY DAY, GIVE ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
YOU CAN'T FIX IT BY TODAY
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YES!
LET'S TRY LOTS OF THINGS

IN THE MEAN-TIME HE ALSO PRAC-TICES BACK-SPIN
WHEN THEY TOLD ME TO CORRECT MY PITCH, THEY JUST MADE ME THROW A LOT...
"STAB"
YOU CAN'T DO AS YOU PLEASE!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TOUR-NA-MENT

*SEE T/N NOTE AT END OF CHAP. 35




SPORTS RE-SEARCH CENTER, ONE DAY IN SEPT-EMBER
IN THE PLACE WHERE 2 WEEKS PRIOR THERE WAS THE DRAWING LOTTERY FOR SOUTHERN SAITAMA
THE REPRESENTA-TIVES OF 40 TEAMS THAT WON THE PRELIMINAR-IES IN EVERY REGION OF SAITAMA
GATH-ERED TO DO ANOTHER DRAW

THE DRAW FOR RE-GION-ALS
NOW I FEEL MORE PRES-SURE
Ookiku Furikabutte
CH 101 END
WHEN YOU WIN, THE TEAMS AROUND YOU GET STRONGER. THAT'S A GIVEN

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

On Page 35, a third round is mentioned. In fact, there is no third round in the fall tournament preliminaries; there are only two rounds.

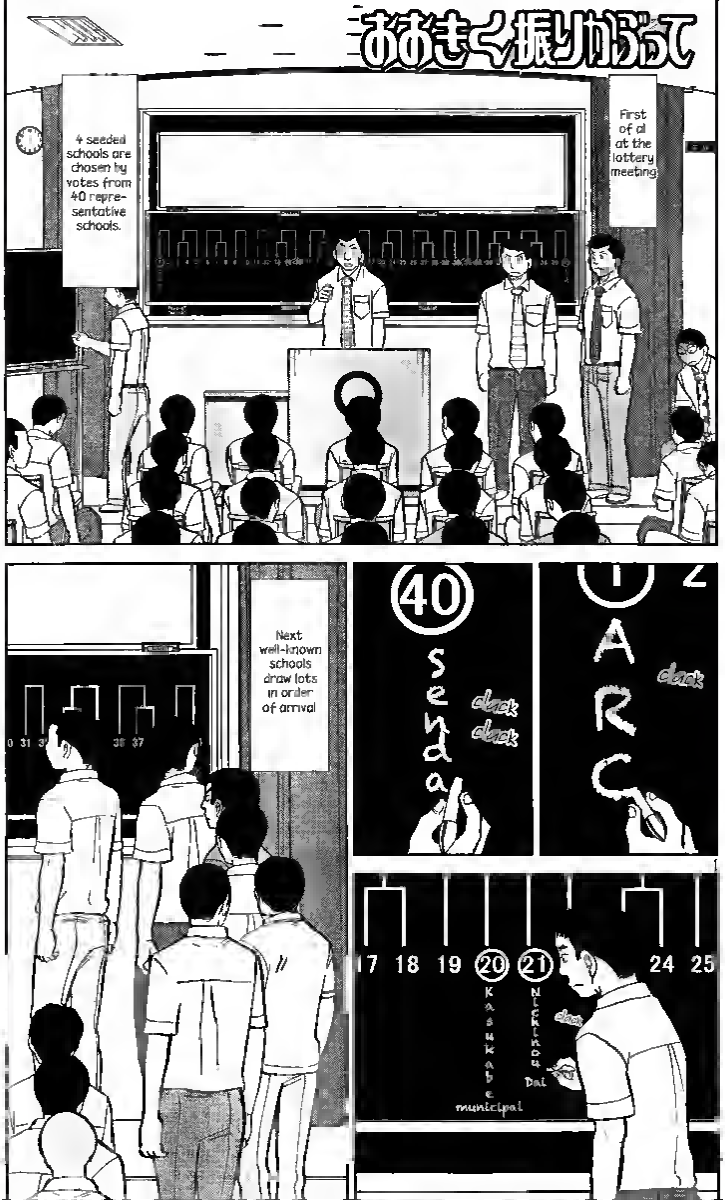
I assume this was a mistake made by the author or one of her assistants. (we'll find out in the tankoubon novel when it's published - there is a possibility that it wasn't)

You can find out more at the URL below about the competition Nishiura is in below if you're interested.

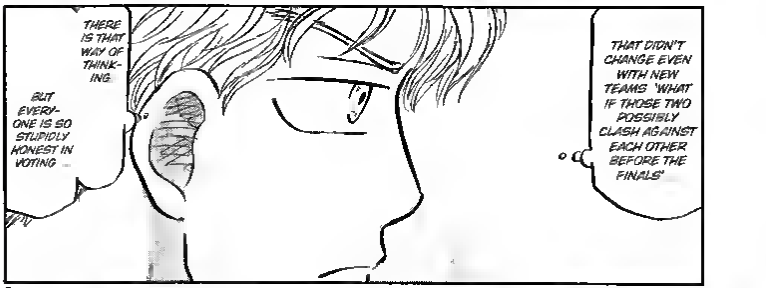
Much of the translation was taken from the same person in charge of the account below, so much thanks!

http://chagrined.dream-width.org/475230.html?style=site

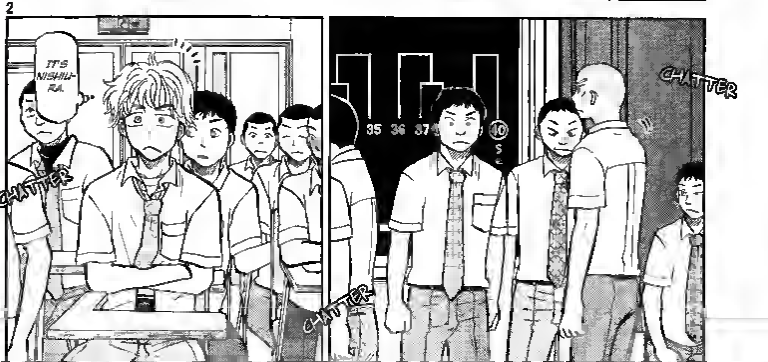
translator:
victoriel@tumblr
editor:
subtlecl@tumblr
oofuri
ch102,
enjoy!


おおきく振りかぶって
4 seeded schools are chosen by votes from 40 representative schools.
First of al at the lottery meeting
Next well-known schools draw lots in order of arrival
40
clack clack
clack
17 18 19 20 21 24 25
municipal
clack

ARC AND SENDA ARE THE 2 POWER-HOUSES,
CHATTER
CHATTER


THERE IS THAT WAY OF THINK-ING
BUT EVERY-ONE IS SO STUPIDLY HONEST IN VOTING
THAT DIDN'T CHANGE EVEN WITH NEW TEAMS 'WHAT IF THOSE TWO POSSIBLY CLASH AGAINST EACH OTHER BEFORE THE FINALS'

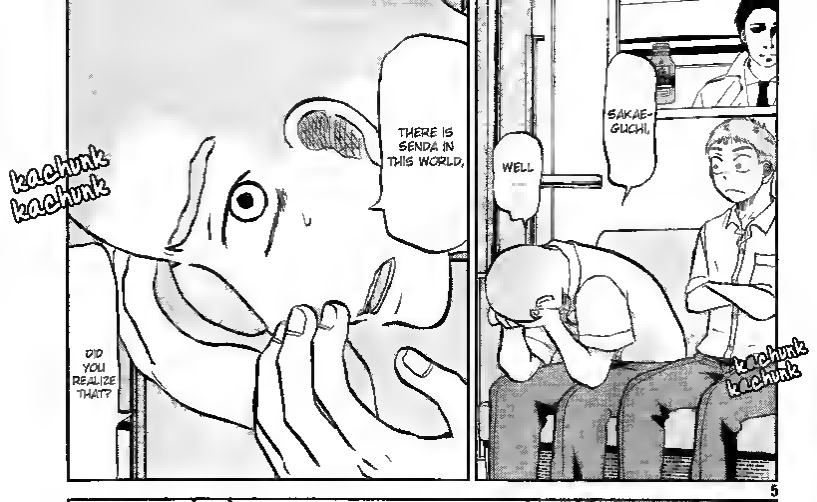
2


IT'S NISHIJI-KA.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

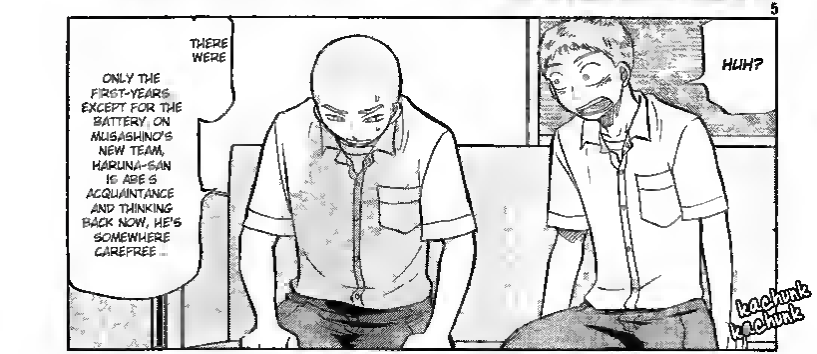
CHATTER
31 32 33 37
CHATTER
CHATTER
3 24 2
32 33 34 3
38 3
3
39
Nishiura
40
Senda
CHATTER
CHATTER
...RIGHT.
REVENGE IS POST-PONED.
CHATTER
73

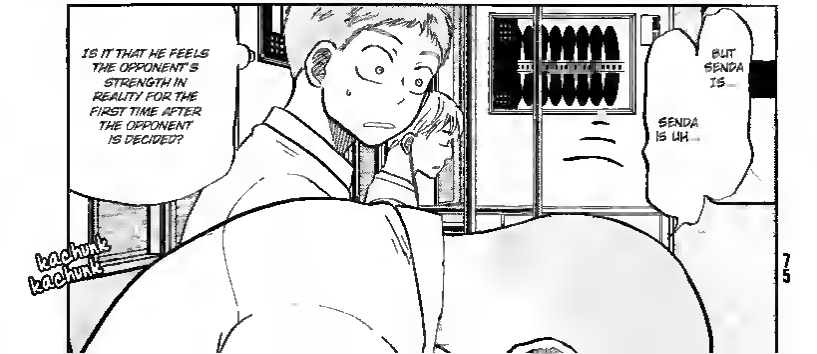
HE'LL DEFINITELY DRAW A STRONG SCHOOL, HANAI'S LUCK IN LOTTERY IS IT STRONG OR IS IT WEAK?
Beats BLACK
kachunk kachunk
kachunk kachunk
おおきく振りかぶって
ひぐちアサ

IT'S NOT THAT HANAI WILL PITCH,
AND YOU'VE HIT A HOME RUN FROM HARUNA, IT SHOULD NOT BECOME SUCH A HEAVY-HEARTED MATTER, RIGHT?
kachunk kachunk
BUT UNTIL WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO CLASP YOUR HEAD?
I UNDER-STAND
kachunk kachunk


kachunk kachunk
THERE IS SENDA IN THIS WORLD,
DID YOU REALIZE THAT?
SAKAE-GUCHI,
WELL...
kachunk kachunk

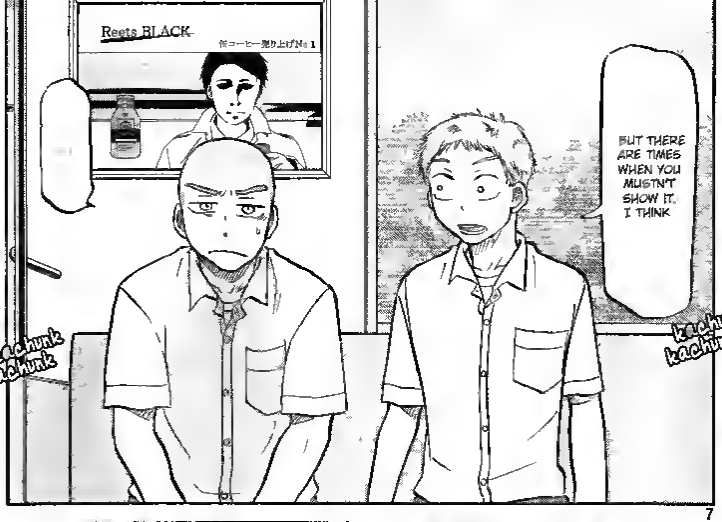
5

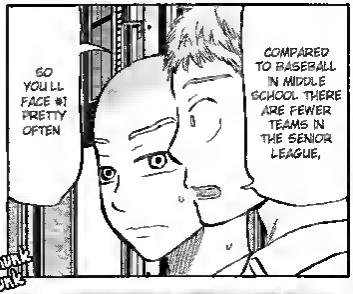

THERE WERE
ONLY THE FIRST-YEARS EXCEPT FOR THE BATTERY ON MUSASHINO'S NEW TEAM, HARUNA-SAN IS ABE'S ACQUAINTANCE AND THINKING BACK NOW, HE'S SOMEWHERE CAREFREE...
HUH?
kachunk kachunk

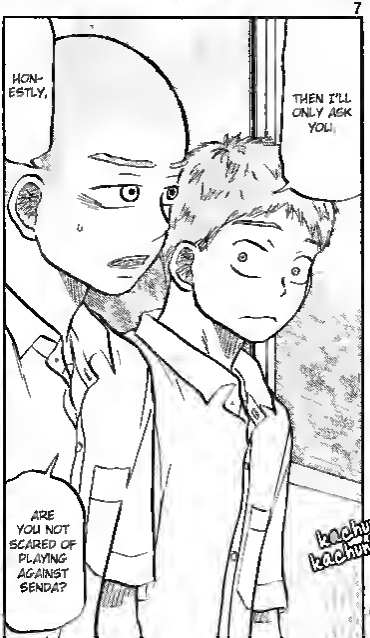

IS IT THAT HE FEELS THE OPPONENT'S STRENGTH IN REALITY FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE OPPONENT IS DECIDED?
BUT SENDA IS...
SENDA IS UH...
kachunk kachunk

7
5

HAHA!
WEREN'T YOU VERY CAREFUL WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
EH?
LIKE JUMPING DOWN FROM HIGH PLACES,
OR PETTING A BIG DOG.
kachunk kachunk
kachunk kachunk
WELL,
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
PROBABLY THINGS YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY AND EVEN KIDS AROUND YOU DO IT,
BUT YOU'LL HESITATE AS YOU THINK ABOUT SITUATIONS WHEN YOU CAN'T DO IT, THAT TYPE OF PERSONALITY?
THAT MAY BE GOOD,
EVEN WHEN YOU ARE A CAPTAIN
AHH.
kachunk kachunk
kachunk kachunk

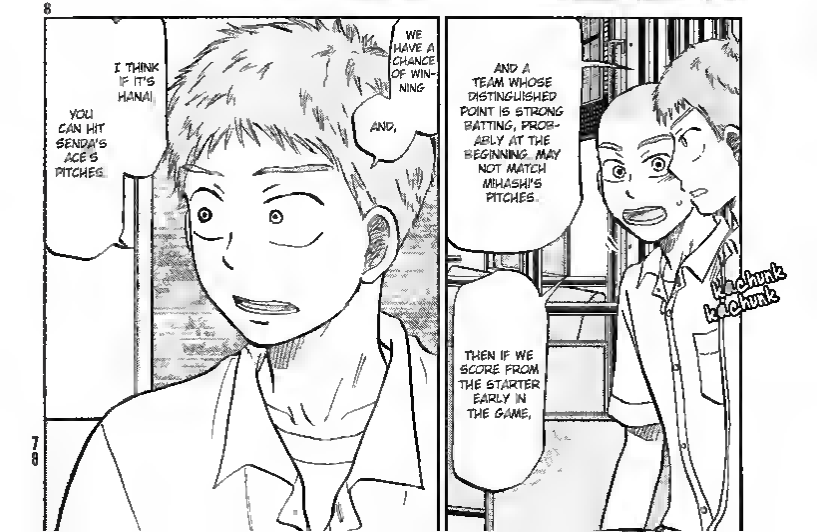

Reets BLACK
BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU MUSTN'T SHOW IT, I THINK
kachunk kachunk
kachunk kachunk


SO YOU'LL FACE #1 PRETTY OFTEN
COMPARED TO BASEBALL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL THERE ARE FEWER TEAMS IN THE SENIOR LEAGUE,
kachunk kachunk


HONESTLY,
THEN I'LL ONLY ASK YOU.
ARE YOU NOT SCARED OF PLAYING AGAINST SENDA?
kachunk kachunk

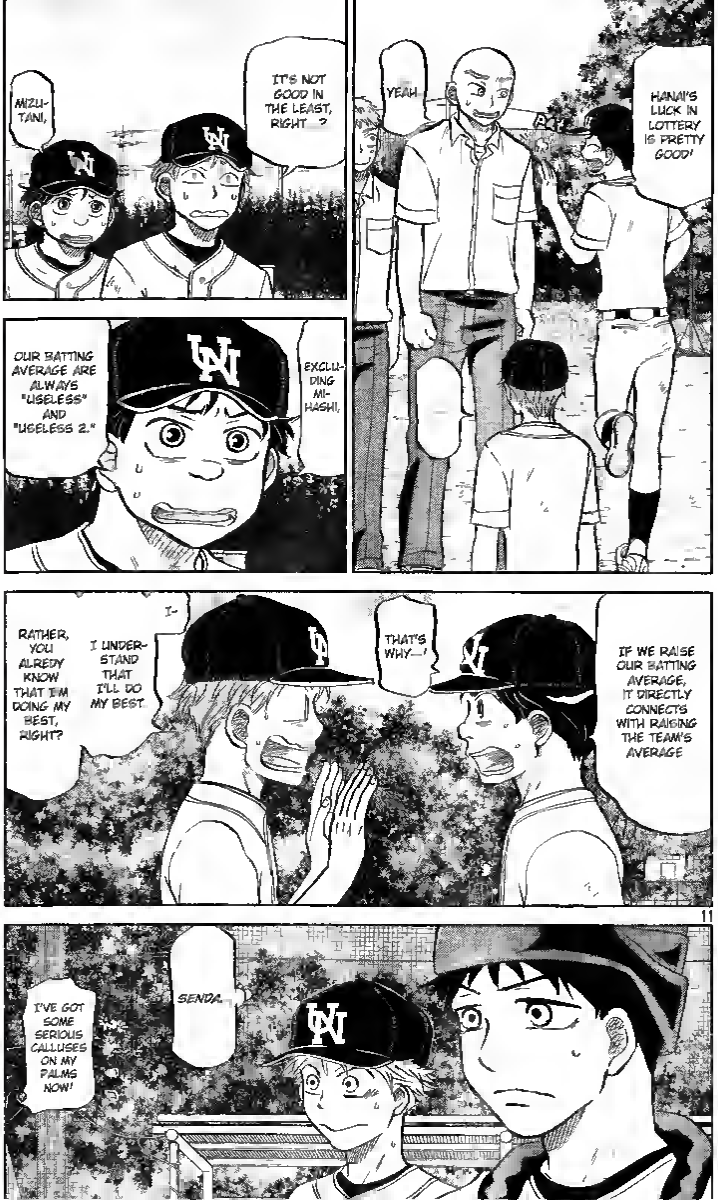
USED TO IT...
"I'M USED TO IT" IN A BAD SENSE.
kachunk kachunk

WELL,
BUT WHEN I DID IT, THERE WAS ALSO THIS FEELING OF "AH, THEY ARE STILL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS."
BUT WE ALMOST DIDN'T WIN AGAINST HIGHER OPPONENTS
kachunk kachunk
BESIDES I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT,
BUT SENDA'S STARTING MEMBERS PROBABLY WON'T BE FROM FIRST-STRING.
OH, MAYBE SO.
kachunk kachunk

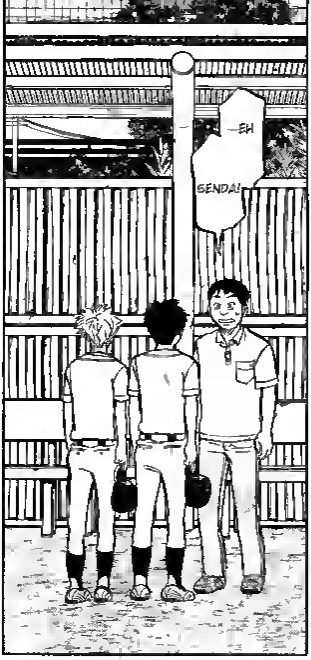

AND A TEAM WHOSE DISTINGUISHED POINT IS STRONG BATTING, PROBABLY AT THE BEGINNING, MAY NOT MATCH MIHASHI'S PITCHES.
WE HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING
AND,
I THINK IF IT'S HANAI
YOU CAN HIT SENDA'S ACE'S PITCHES.
THEN IF WE SCORE FROM THE STARTER EARLY IN THE GAME,
kachunk kachunk

Reels BLACK
NO—
RATH-ER,
WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU CAN'T HIT IT
—OH
kachunk kachunk
NO, NO, NO!
NO!
IT'S NOT JUST HANAI BUT EVERYONE
RIGHT
kachunk kachunk
kachunk kachunk

SENDA!?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, JUST DRAW ARC
10
WE CAN PLAY AGAINST ARC AT THE 4 CITIES TOURNAMENT BUT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FACE SENDA UNLESS IT'S AN OFFICIAL GAME
YEAH!
GOOD LOT-TERY!

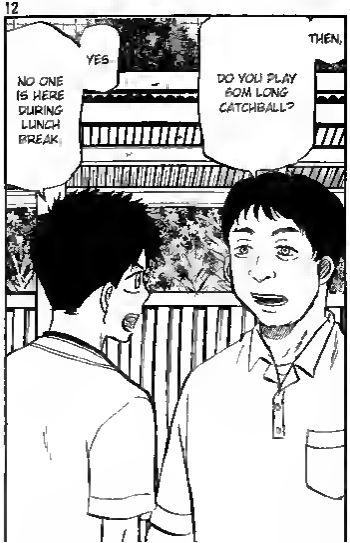

MIZUTANI,
IT'S NOT GOOD IN THE LEAST, RIGHT...?
YEAH
HANAI'S LUCK IN LOTTERY IS PRETTY GOOD!
OUR BATTING AVERAGE ARE ALWAYS "USELESS" AND "USELESS 2."
EXCLUDING MIHASHI.
I-
RATHER, YOU ALREDY KNOW THAT I'M DOING MY BEST, RIGHT?
I UNDERSTAND THAT I'LL DO MY BEST.
THAT'S WHY...!
IF WE RAISE OUR BATTING AVERAGE, IT DIRECTLY CONNECTS WITH RAISING THE TEAM'S AVERAGE
11
SENDA.
I'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS CALLUSES ON MY PALMS NOW!

A TEAM WHOSE DISTIGUISH-ING POINTS ARE STRONG BATTING AND FULL SWINGS
MEANS,


—EH
SENDA!

ALTHOUGH #1 IS STILL ARC

12


YES
NO ONE IS HERE DURING LUNCH BREAK
THEN,
DO YOU PLAY 60M LONG CATCHBALL?

YES!
THE TYPES ARE DIFFERENT BUT THERE'S NOTHING AHEAD IF YOU DON'T HOLD THEM DOWN!

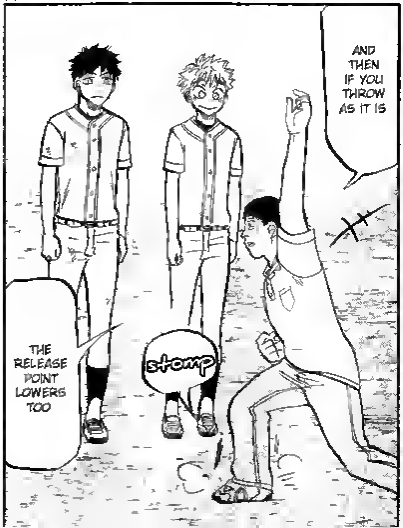
82

I SEE. A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN HAVE EOM DURING CLUB ACTIVITIES IS NOT AVAILABLE HERE
IT'S ALSO SERIOUS IF A HARD BALL HITS A PERSON
gulp
LUNCH BREAK IS?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD WE LEAVE IT FOR AFTER TOURNAMENT?
ba-dump
HE PITCHES IN THE BULLPEN FROM THE SET 7 VS 3 TIMES
SET POSITION IS?
OKAY,
13
AND THEN,
THERE IS SOMETHING BOTHERING ME WITH YOUR FORM.
YEAH,
PITCHING FROM THE SET IN GAMES IS MORE FREQUENT.

SO WHEN HE LIFTS HIS LEFT LEG HIS KNEE COMES AROUND THIS AREA
BUT MIHASHI'S JOINTS ARE PROBABLY SOFT,
PAT
WHICH PART IS THAT?
IT DOESN'T HAVE DIRECT CONNECTION TO BACKSPIN,

14


AND THEN IF YOU THROW AS IT IS
THE RELEASE POINT LOWERS TOO
stomp
PEOPLE WITH SOFT BODIES TEND TO DO IT,
BUT IF IT'S LIKE THIS THEN YOU NATURALLY LOWER YOUR HEAD TO BALANCE YOURSELF

84

Come-
come-
WHEN YOU LOOK AT YOUR STANCE AFTER PITCHING
THIS STEPPING WIDTH
AND THEN,
15
BUT YOU OVER-STEP.
Step
IT'S ALSO BECAUSE OF YOUR SOFT BODY,
LOOK, YOUR LEFT LEG REMAINS BEHIND YOUR BUTT.
IN FRONT.
THE BODY WEIGHT CAN'T GET TO THE LEG,
THERE
Step
YOU STEP TOO FORWARD,
stomp
THAT'S THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU DON'T PROPERLY TRANSFER YOUR BODY WEIGHT.
05

whoosh
HMM!
AFTER YOU PITCH WITH YOUR ALL STRENGTH
swoosh

WHEN YOU PROPERLY TRANSFER THE BODY WEIGHT,
leans

THERE ARE A LOT OF PITCHERS LIKE THAT
THAT DOESN'T AFFECT DEFENCE?

YOUR PIVOT LEG COMES FORWARD
AFTER A FOLLOW-THROUGH,
loses balance
QUICK MOVEMENT!
SINCE IF YOU DON'T DO THAT YOU'LL FALL FORWARD.

IT AFFECTS
BUT A PITCHER'S DUTY IS TO PITCH RIGHT?

SINCE YOU WANT TO THROW FAST PITCHES, YOU RAISE YOUR LEG AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE AND STEP FORWARD WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
BUT IN REALITY WITH MORE COMFORTABLE WAY OF PITCHING YOU'LL GET POWER AND THE BALL'S SPEED WILL ALSO RISE.
MI-HASHI
YE-
YES

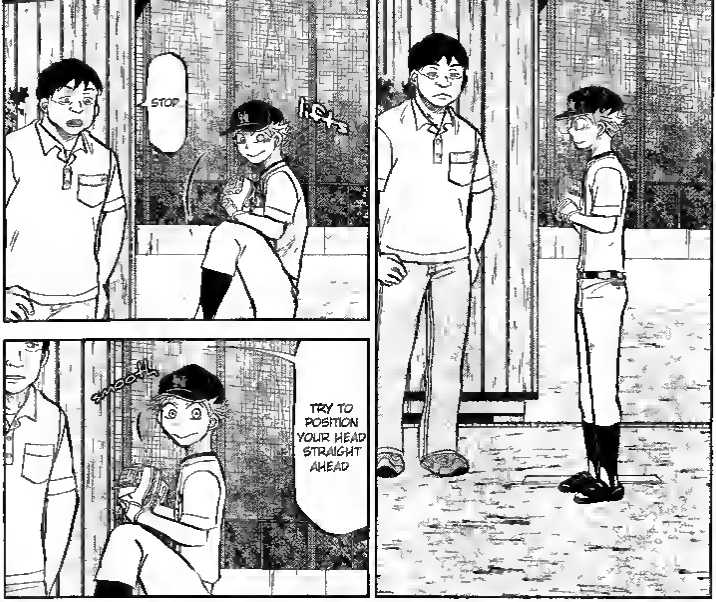
17

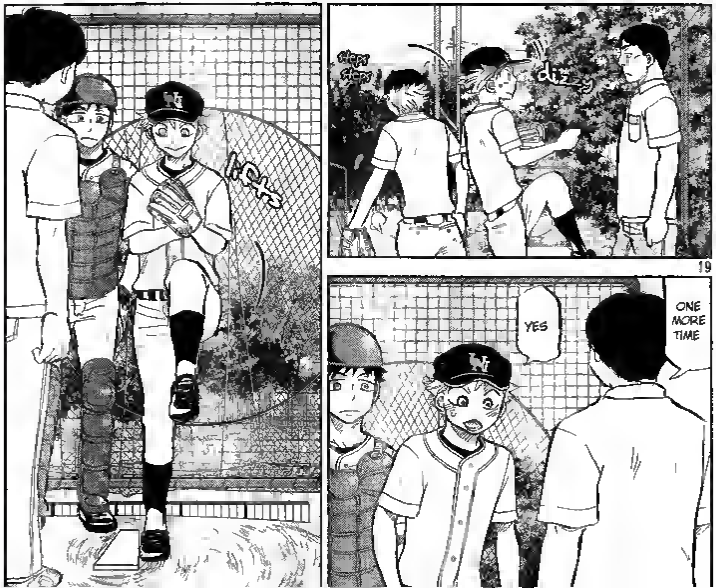
LETTING ASIDE THE KNEE, IT'S VERY HARD TO FIX STEPPING WIDTH
BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S THE MIDDLE OF A TOURNAMENT,
REALIZATION
YE-
DO YOU WANT TO TRY?
YES,
YES!

IT'LL BE SEVERE IF IT ISN'T FINISHED COMPLETELY UNTIL THEN
IF HIS CONTROL BECOMES WEAK IT WON'T EVEN BE A GAME
WE HAVE 6 DAYS UNTIL THE GAME WITH AN A-SEEDED SCHOOL
FUKU

THEN TRY IT A LITTLE
6 DAYS ...?

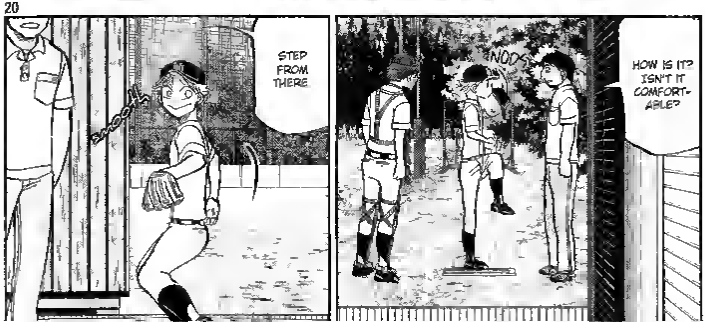
YES!
IF IT'S COMPLETELY NO GOOD THEN WE'LL DO IT AFTER THE TOURNAMENT


STOP
TRY TO POSITION YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT AHEAD


dizzy
YES
ONE MORE TIME

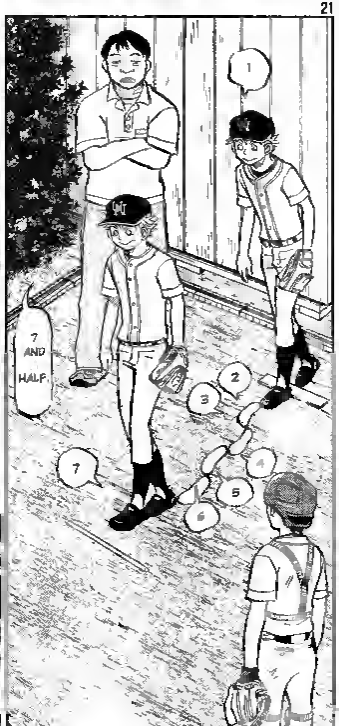
RAISE YOUR HEAD?
AROUND HERE
PAT
PAT

PAT


STEP FROM THERE
SWOOSH
NOD
HOW IS IT? ISN'T IT COMFORTABLE?

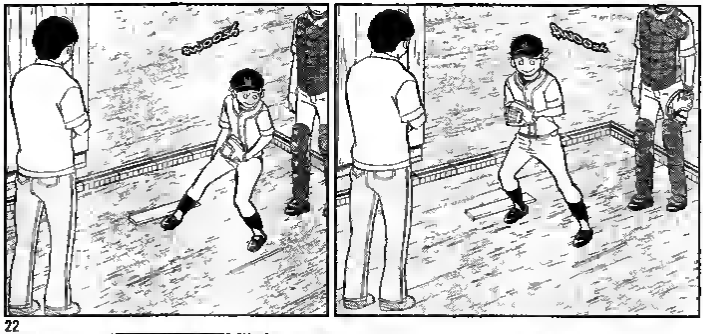
HERE
I'LL LEAVE IT SO TRY TO MEASURE THE DISTANCE
whoosh

THE BODY WEIGHT TO THE BACK
THEN HERE WIDEN YOUR LEGS

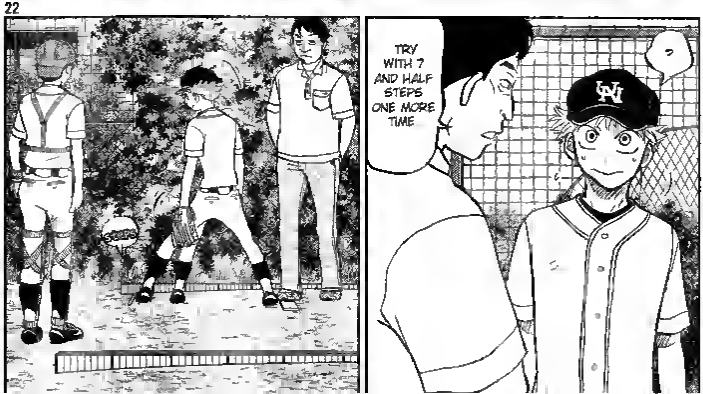

1
7 AND HALF
2
3
4
5
6
7

YEAH, REMEMBER THAT FEELING
THEN FORWARD

FROM JUST NOW.
THE BODY WEIGHT TRANSFER.
THEN LET'S TRY TO NARROW IT BY ONE STEP.

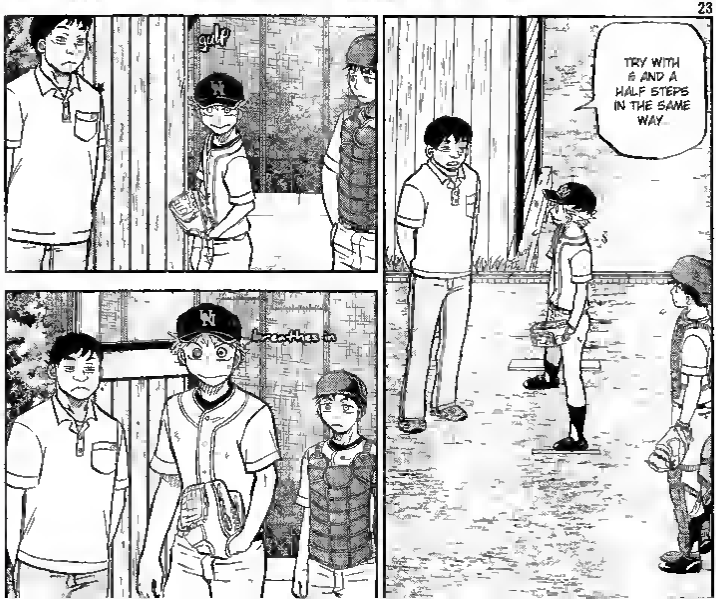

SWOOSH
SWOOSH

22


SWIPE
TRY WITH 7 AND HALF STEPS ONE MORE TIME
?

THERE YOU GO
TRY TO STAND ON YOUR LEFT LEG ONLY.
AFTER TRANSFERING YOUR BODY WEIGHT
GET

23


gulp
TRY WITH 6 AND A HALF STEPS IN THE SAME WAY.
breathes in

IT'S COMFORTABLE.
BUT YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU WON'T GET POWER
YEAH.
I THINK THE LENGTHS OF 6 AND A HALF STEPS FITS MIHASHI

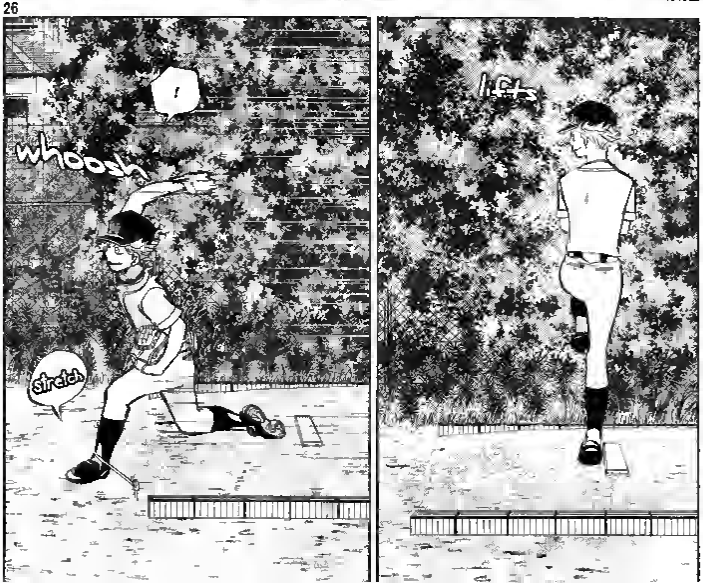
24

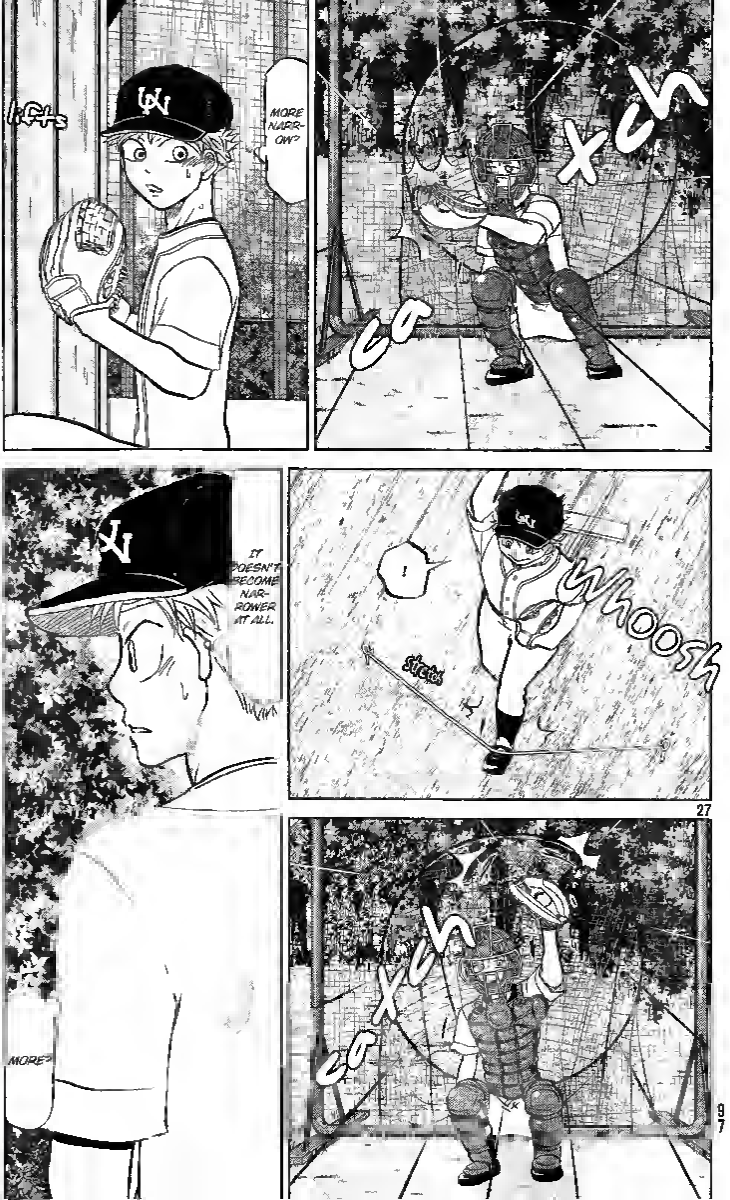
WAIT A MINUTE.
HE'S THROUGHLY PREPARED AGAIN
HE CAN SAY THAT CLEARLY
YES
THEN LET'S TRY TO PITCH A LITTLE

TRY TO PITCH WITHOUT STEPPING ON THE RUBBER
THAT'S MIHASHI'S 6 AND A HALF STEPS
HOP
HOP
SWING

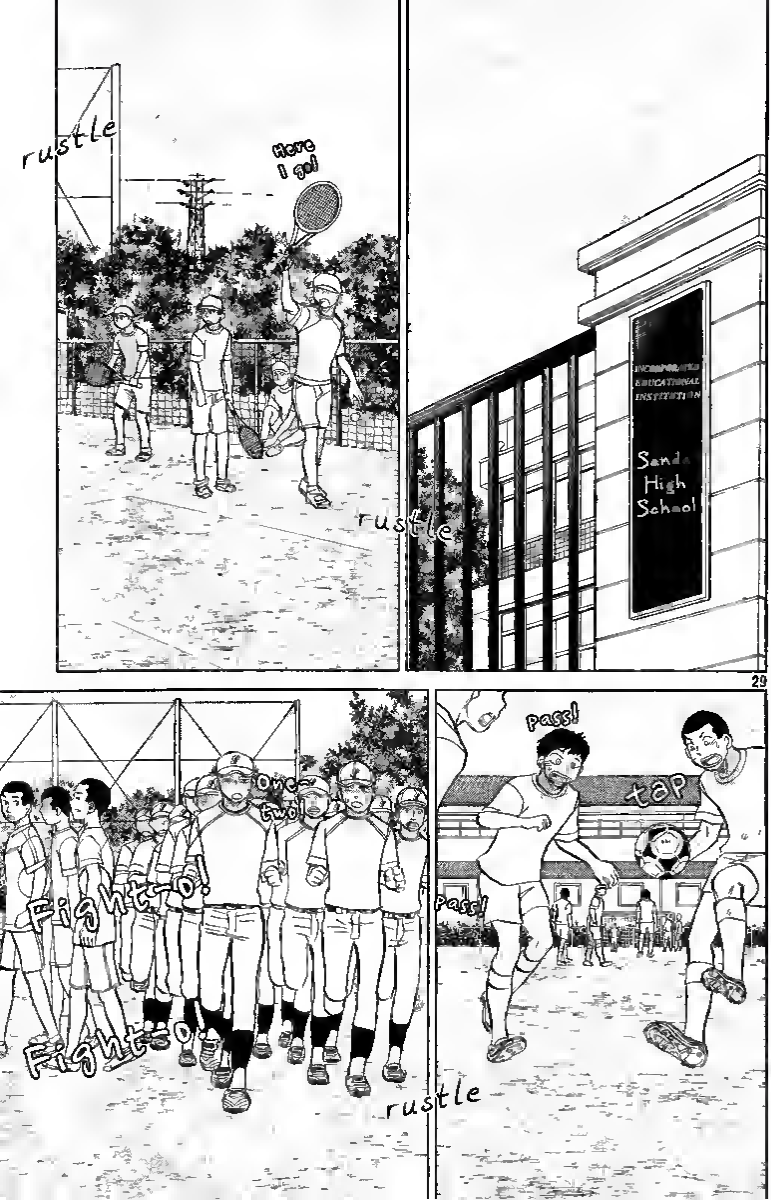
G
A
S
P
THE KNEE IS GOOD

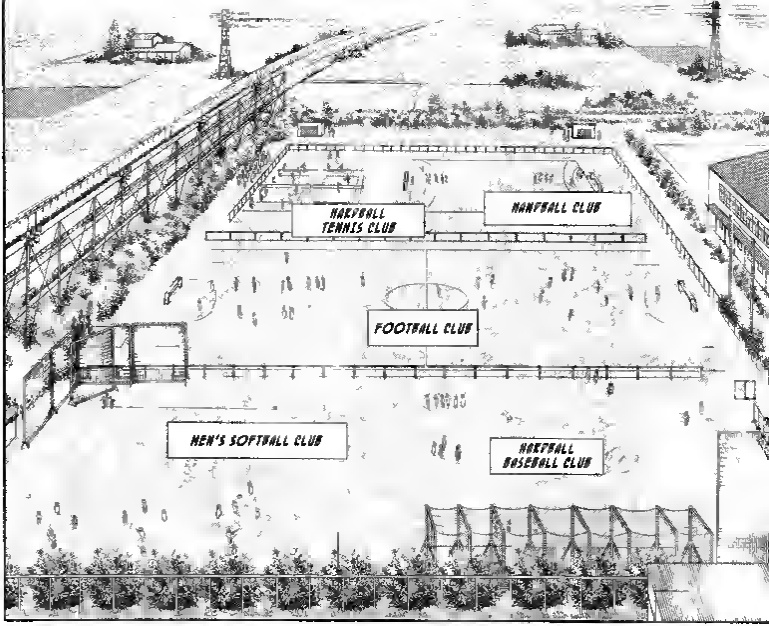
buzz
CATCH
MORE NARROW
?
grabs

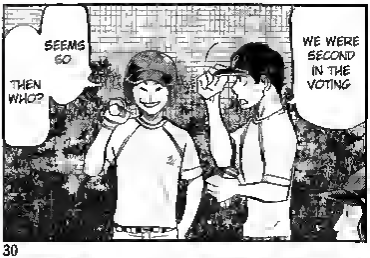

!
whoosh
sirida
lifts

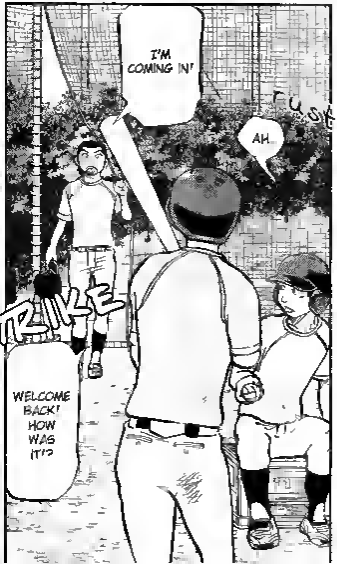

MORE NARROW?
IT DOESN'T BECOME NARROWER AT ALL.
WHOOSH
MORE?

28


rustle
Here I go!
rustle
Sanda High School
29
Fight-o!
Fight-o!
One, two!
pass!
tap
pass!
rustle
99


HARDBALL TENNIS CLUB
HANDBALL CLUB
FOOTBALL CLUB
MEN'S SOFTBALL CLUB
HARDBALL BASEBALL CLUB

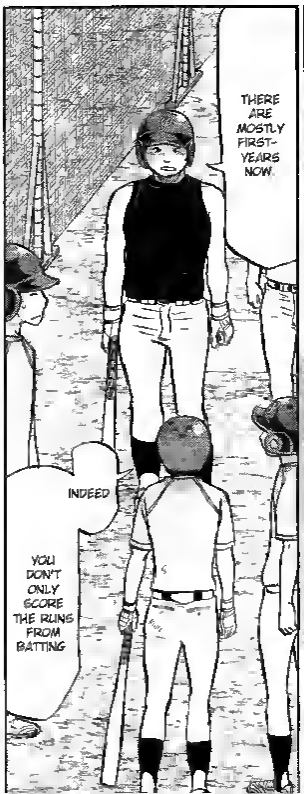

SEEMS SO
WE WERE SECOND IN THE VOTING
THEN WHO?


I'M COMING IN!
AH...
STRIKE
WELCOME BACK! HOW WAS IT?

30

EH? WHO?
KNOW IT?
NISHII-RA

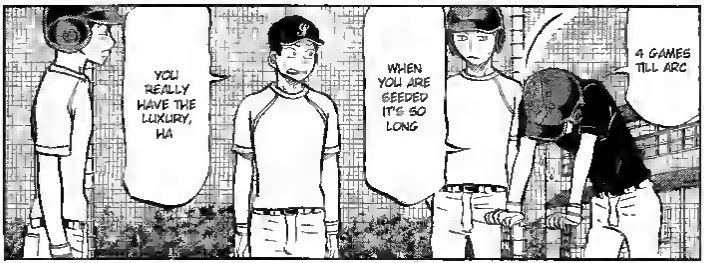
THERE ARE ONLY FIRST-YEARS, RIGHT?
RIGHT! THAT!
THAT THEY WON OVER MUSASHINO
I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT SOME-HOW
WHAT ABOUT NISHIURA?


THERE ARE MOSTLY FIRST-YEARS NOW.
INDEED
YOU DON'T ONLY SCORE THE RUNS FROM BATTING

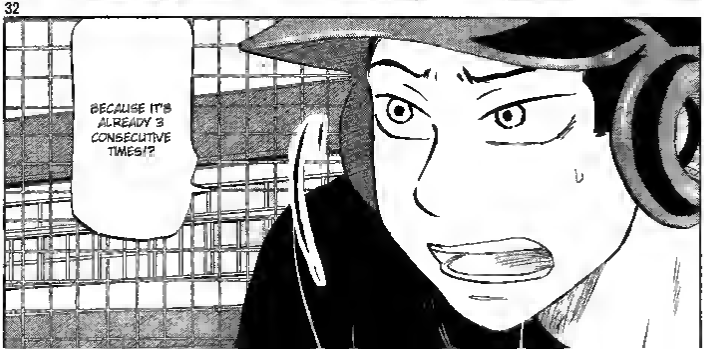
OOH!
THEY'VE SURELY TAKEN 4 RUNS FROM HARUNA
YEAH, BUT

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THIRD-YEARS AT MUSASHINO RETIRED.
EH?
IT'S A PUBLIC SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?
THEY DON'T RECRUIT PLAYERS, RIGHT?

HOW MANY ROUNDS ARE THERE UNTIL THE FINALS?
WE PLAY FROM THE SECOND ROUND SO IF WE WIN 5 TIMES WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS
PROBABLY KAWAGUCHI CHUUOU
THEN WHO IS NEXT?
I CAN'T KNOW AFTER THAT.
AND NEXT ?


YOU REALLY HAVE THE LUXURY, HA
WHEN YOU ARE SEEDED IT'S SO LONG
4 GAMES TILL ARC

32


BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY 3 CONSECUTIVE TIMES!?

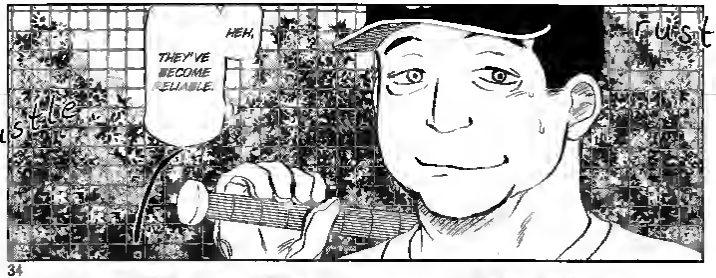
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT WE WON'T FEEL RELAXED UNTIL THE FINALS
RIGHT RIGHT
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT UNLESS WE WIN 5 TIMES WE CAN'T GO FURTHER.
EVEN IF WE FACED ARC EARLIER,

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR SOFT—
WE'LL DISCUSS THE REST IN THE MEETING.

33

WE DON'T HAVE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES FOR OUTFIELD PRACTICE!!!
SWISH
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CHAT!!

OUT-FIELDERS ASSEMBLE!!
OK!
LET'S GO!


HEH.
THEY'VE BECOME RELIABLE.
rustle
rustle

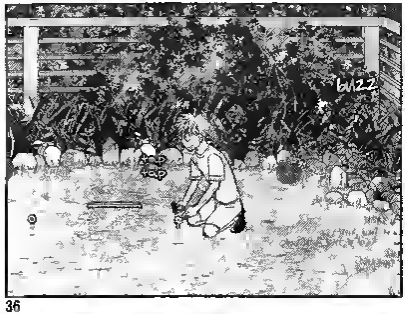
BUT THESE GUYS WOULD NEVER BLAME THE GROUND FOR A LOSS.
PLEASE!
I THOUGHT, "WHEN YOU DON'T GIVE US ANYTHING EXCEPT THIS NARROW GROUND, DON'T SAY UNREALISTIC THINGS LIKE 'AIM FOR KOSHIEN'."
WHEN I PLAYED.
rustle
rustle
STRIKE

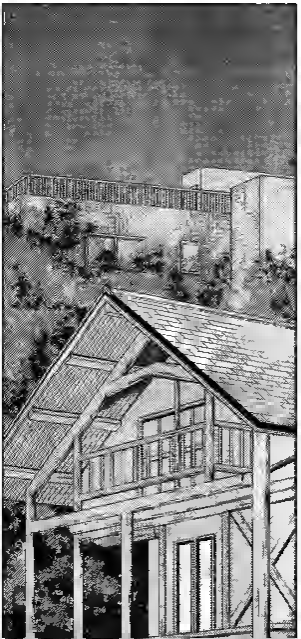
PLEASE!
TRAINING WITH BATTING PITCHER IS IMPOSSIBLE OF COURSE, FINALLY JUST1 BATTING CAGE WAS BOUGHT AND ALL OF THEM USE IT, INSPITE OF THESE CIR-CUMSTANCES SPEAKING OF SENDA NOW,
BAM
WE CAN DO ONLY THESE FUNGO PRACTICE BUT OUTFILDERS DIDN'T MAKE ERRORS ALL ALONG.
IT'S "A TEAM WITH STRONG BATTING"

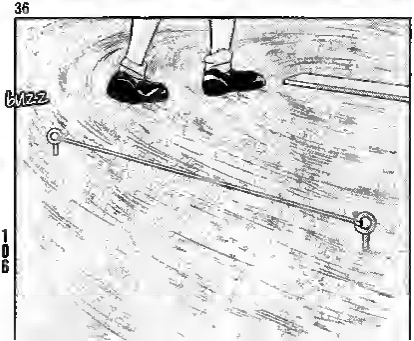
35

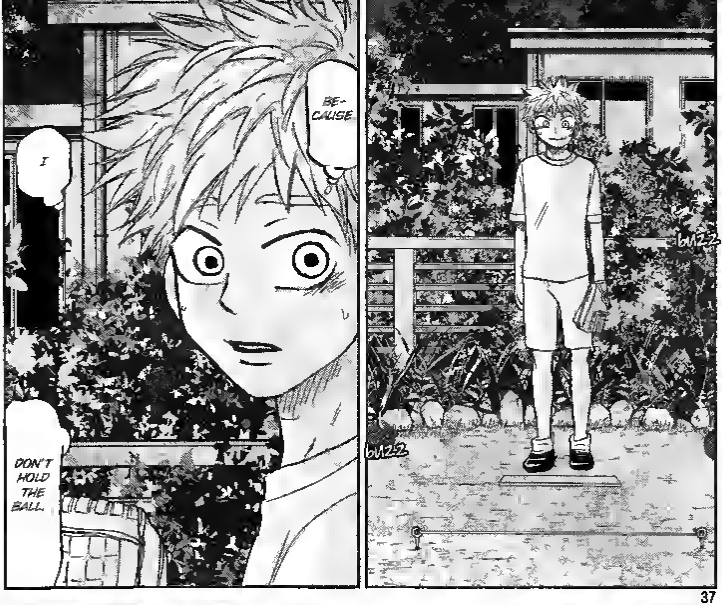
Please!
AND SAKURAI, A FIRST-CLASS BATTER, GREW UP VERY WELL.
MI-YAMORI WHO IS GOOD PITCHER,
ON TOP OF THAT THIS YEAR.

BASE-
BALL
GOD,
PLEASE LET THEM GO TO KOSHIEN SOON!
AS WELL FOR THE SAKE OF THE COACH WHO SPENT 10 YEARS TO MAKE THE TEAM AS IT IS NOW FROM AN ORDINARY PUNY PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL.

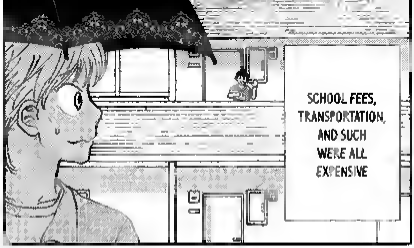

BUZZ




BUZZ


I
BE-
CAUSE
DON'T
HOLD
THE
BALL.
buzz
buzz

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.
SHADOW
TRAINING
IS NOT
PITCHING,
TURN


SCHOOL FEES, TRANSPORTATION, AND SUCH WERE ALL EXPENSIVE

AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO MIHASHI, MIHASHI-MAMA TOOK THREE MONTHS OF LEAVE, AND THEN RETURNED TO COLLEGE
BE SURE TO NOT TAKE YOUR EYES OFF OF HIM. DON'T PUT HIM TO SLEEP ON HIS STOMACH. BE CAREFUL HE DOESN'T GET HEATSTROKE. AND ALSO—
YOU'LL BE LATE—

MIHASHI-MAMA REAPPLIED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS,
BUT THAT MONEY WAS ALL EATEN UP BY VARIOUS COLLEGE EXPENSES

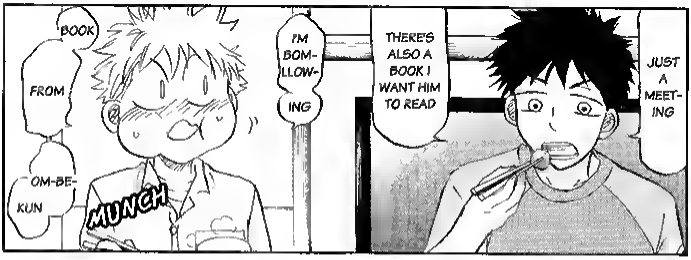
NICKNAMED THE "CREAKING ROST VILLA"
THEY MOVED TO AN APARTMENT WITH A MONTHLY RENT OF ONLY 13000¥

IT WAS QUITE A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE
THANKS FOR REAL!!
YOSHIKO-KUN, HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY!
IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE LANDLORD'S INTENT, BUT THERE WERE LOTS OF YOUNG COUPLES LIVING THERE
AND THEY LIVED TOGETHER WITH BUGS AND LIZARDS
GEEZ, HOW CAN YOU BE SO STARTLED EVERY TIME?
THERE ARE TONS OF THEM AND THEY DON'T BITE. — LEAVE THEM BE
KYAAA
KYAAA!
EEK!
MAMA
THE ROOMS WERE HOT IN THE SUMMER AND COLD IN THE WINTER

ANYWAY... PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE MIHASHI KEPT SMILES ON THEIR FACES,
IS THE ORANGE YUM-MY?
SUCH FORCE!
NOM NOM
SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF HIS FIRST ORANGE
BUT THEY DIDN'T WORRY OR CARE ABOUT THE DOWNSIDES MUCH
BUT SOME TIMES
SHE WAS OVERCOME WITH INSECURITY
WHILE PAPA'S OUT SHOPPING, SHE'S TAKING MIHASHI FOR A WALK
WHEN SHE BECOMES AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR THEY'LL HAVE A STABLE LIFE... BUT THAT'S AT LEAST 10 OR MORE YEARS IN THE FUTURE
EVEN IF THEY SOMEHOW MAKE IT THAT FAR WITH PART-TIME JOBS AND THE INSURANCE MONEY FROM HER PARENTS
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT SHE'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
EVEN WHILE HAVING SUCH THOUGHTS SHE WAS QUITE HAPPY.
BUT AT THAT TIME, SOMEONE WAS FOLLOWING MIHASHI-MAMA
WHEN MIHASHI TURNS ONE, THEY'LL PUT HIM IN THE UNIVERSITY'S DAY CARE AND MIHASHI-PAPA IS GOING TO WORK TOO.
HE'S FALLEN ASLEEP...
BUT IF HE STARTS JOB HUNTING AT THAT POINT, WON'T IT BE HARD TO BECOME A COMPANY EMPLOYEE...?
"THE MIHASHI FAMILY" CAME TO LOOK FOR THEM...
WHICH WAS MIHASHI-MAMA'S DEEPEST FEAR.

SCANLATED BY OOFURI-BAKA
VOL 23
OMAKE
I'M SORRY IT'S JUST A NORMAL MEAL
AT LEAST THERE'S A LOT OF IT, SO DON'T HOLD BACK!
SIT HERE
FLEA-SE
GULP
CLACK
WHAT ABOUT SHUN'S PORTION?
IT'S ALRIGHT, I PUT IT ASIDE
OH
LET'S EA...
WOW!
LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!!
LET'S EAT!
LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!
SWEET-AND-SOUR PORK!!

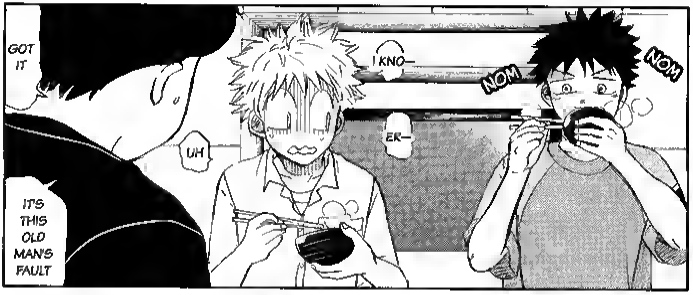
DID YOU HAVE SOME BUSI-NESS TODAY?
RATTLE
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO THIN
THESE DAYS TAKA EATS LIKE CRAZY TOO, BUT MIHASHI DOESN'T LOSE TO HIM
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH


BOOK
FROM
OM-BE-KUN
MUNCH
I'M BOM-LLOW-ING
THERE'S ALSO A BOOK I WANT HIM TO READ
JUST A MEET-ING

RICE?
THE WAY YOU CALL HIM. YOU DON'T HAVE NICKNAMES?
WE HAVE NICK-NAMES ....
ONLY IZUMI CALLS HIM "RICE"
MIZU-TANI-KUN IS RICE"-
MIHASHI, YOU STILL CALL HIM ABE-' KUN'?
?
GULP

TAKA,
YOU WERE CALLED BY YOUR FIRST NAME IN THE SENIOR LEAGUE, RIGHT?
THE EASIEST WAY IS TO USE FIRST NAMES
OTHERS DON'T HAVE
AND OTHERS?
HULU
HULU
IT'S RELATED TO A SENSE OF DISTANCE
THERE ARE EVEN TEAMS THAT PURPOSEFULLY CALL EACH OTHER BY FIRST NAMES
THEN WHY DON'T YOU START IT?
IF THERE WERE UPPERCLASSMEN IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFERENT
WE'VE SOMEHOW GOTTEN USED TO CALLING EACH OTHER BY SURNAMES
GULP
HUH?
I'M REN...
RE
ER
I KNOW THAT
TRY IT OUT NOW
MMM
.....
CHEW
CHEW

MIHA-SHI
THIS GUY IS TAKAYA


GOT IT
I KNO—
NOM
NOM
UH
ER—
IT'S THIS OLD MAN'S FAULT

EVEN TODAY WE WERE TALKING IN MY ROOM, WEREN'T WE?
IN A NORMAL WAY!
WHOA
HOW DO YOU GUYS EVEN UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER?
AFTER MIHA-SHI LEFT
WHOA
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
WELL, I DON'T THINK MIHA-SHI HATES HIM
IN THE END SHUN'S DINNER WAS EATEN BY OTHERS SO SHE JUST MADE HIM SOME YAKINIKU
EAT YOUR MEAL
OK?
OKAY!
MUNCH
MUNCH